



# The Flat Hat

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page 13

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY SINCE 1911

<http://flathat.wm.edu>

## Junior announces bid for city council



COURTESY PHOTO • MIKE WEISSBERGER

**Junior David Sievers (right) spoke with students at a press conference to announce his candidacy Tuesday.**

BY CHARLOTTE SABALIS  
THE FLAT HAT

Junior David Sievers announced Tuesday that he would become the latest College student to seek a position on the Williamsburg City Council, a move that has been attempted unsuccessfully by several students in the past few years. Sievers said that he will be taking the semester off in order to devote as much time as possible to his campaign.

"I decided to run because

Williamsburg needs someone on the City Council to decide issues that affect everyone," Sievers said in an interview Wednesday. "We need to establish meaningful dialogue, and I think I am the best candidate for that."

While Sievers said that none of the primary matters he will be addressing are strictly "student issues," he did say that his policies would affect students as well as other Williamsburg residents.

"Students should be interested in

economic development in the city," Sievers said. "Places to shop, work, etc. in Williamsburg impact the lives of students. Students will hopefully be interested in what I have to say."

Sievers also said that housing was an issue that affected students. In his press release, Sievers named inclusive, affordable housing as one of his four primary issues. The other three listed were promoting reasonable city density, diversifying Williamsburg's business base and building community dialogue. Sievers will

be running against two incumbents, Jeanne Zeidler and Billy Scruggs, and newcomer Bobby Braxton, for two available seats.

"I believe that the election process is an important opportunity to explore issues, talk with citizens and examine points of view," Zeidler said. "Healthy discussion makes a stronger community. I appreciate David Sievers' willingness to contribute to this dialogue and his willingness to serve."

While Sievers was reluctant to criticize his opponents, he did say that the fact that both incumbents have careers in the tourist industry could alter their vision for the city.

"I'm not saying it's a conflict of interest, but the experiences that you bring to the table acclimate you to thinking a certain way," Sievers said. "I would like to represent a tangible sense of diversity and to represent the interests of the whole city, some that are currently represented, and some that aren't."

Sievers dismissed concerns that he would abandon his position, if elected, after his studies at the College have concluded.

"If I am elected, I will stay at least for one full term," Sievers said. "There's a conception that students will just leave after four years, as there are no foreseeable reasons to

**See JUNIOR + page 3**



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

**Students living in the King and Queens apartment complex complain that their landlord is unresponsive to their needs and fines them unreasonably.**

## Tenants criticize local landlord

BY MAX FISHER  
FLAT HAT VARIETY EDITOR

Gladys Victor, owner and operator of the King and Queens apartment complex on Scotland Drive, is the subject of allegations from 10 tenants of the complex who spoke to The Flat Hat about how her behavior has violated Virginia commonwealth property codes. King and Queens houses about 40 to 46 tenants, all of whom are students at the College.

A common sight in the area, Victor can be recognized by her single-color velour jumpsuits and her green Toyota Avalon, which tenants reported is frequently parked across two

spaces in the King and Queens lot. Her cluttered office is located within the complex and contains a sign that reads, "We do not deal with parents." Victor can only be reached indirectly by her tenants, who must call a local answering service that then alerts Victor of the call.

"One time, brown, filthy water came shooting out of our sink," senior tenant Allison Moller said. "We left several emergency messages with her answering service, but she never called back. She finally showed up three hours later without calling."

**See LANDLORD + page 4**

## Student attacked during pro-life rally

BY MICHAEL J. SCHOBEL  
FLAT HAT NEWS EDITOR

A student participating in a pro-life demonstration was assaulted while handing out informational cards in front of the Crim Dell Tuesday evening. The victim's alleged assailant has not been identified and Campus Police are investigating the incident.

According to witnesses, the victim, a female junior at the College, was handing out cards as part of a William and Mary Students for Life candle-lighting ceremony when another woman hit her in the face and knocked her to the ground. The cards said that each candle of the 100 lit by the group represented 35 abortions performed in the U.S. on that day.

"I saw her attacker push her to the ground," junior Teri Tolpa, treasurer of Students for Life, said in the group's press release. "At first [she] seemed shocked, then she was upset when she realized what happened. I feel sorry for her, she's such a sweet, soft-spoken girl."

According to Tolpa, after knocking the victim to the ground, the alleged assailant apologized and walked away. Tolpa said she could not tell if the girl was being sarcastic.

The victim suffered scratches and swelling to one side of her face and had marks on her neck, but she declined medical treatment. Tolpa escorted the student to Campus Police to file a report.

The alleged attacker was described as a white female, about 5'8" or 5'9" tall, with long, wavy brown hair. At the time of the incident, she was wearing a gray or black coat, a knit hat and pants.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler expressed outrage over the incident in an e-mail to the student body Wednesday evening.

"I have been at William and Mary for a long time. This is the first

**See ATTACKED + page 3**

## BITCHIN' PETITION MISSION FOR TUITION



COURTESY PHOTO • VIRGINIA21

**The advocacy group Virginia21 presented the signatures of 12,531 individuals, primarily students, to the General Assembly urging full state financing of higher education yesterday in Richmond. According to the organization, there is a \$377 million deficit between what the commonwealth has promised and what was allocated in the last budget. The General Assembly is working on the next biennial budget.**

## SA Senate passes bill urging finance reform, 29-0

BY ALEX ELY  
THE FLAT HAT

The Student Assembly Senate passed two bills Tuesday night in James Blair Hall: the Fiscal Transparency Act and a bill to provide funds for MBA students to take part in a business school competition.

The Fiscal Transparency Act, initially presented at the Jan. 31 meeting, called for an investigation into Student Activities funds that were allegedly missing, as well as suggestions for the administration to make more accurate allocations of funds to Student Activities. The relevance of the bill came into question, however, after Vice President for Finance Sam Jones revealed that no Student Activity funds are actually missing.

Following the previous week's meeting when the issue was first raised, junior Sen. Scott Fitzgerald

suggested that the administration, rather than using a 25-year-old estimate of 6,500 students, should instead base their estimates on the total enrollment of the previous year and the amount of Student Activities fees paid.

The bill also included a petition to the College's finance office to conduct extensive research into the missing funds. "We want to tabulate how much money has been missing over the last 10 years and where it has gone," Fitzgerald said.

Just before the bill was put to vote, senior Sen. Harrison Godfrey suggested adding another clause to the bill that would specify that "any unexpected additional funds raised will automatically go into the Student Activities Consolidated Reserve Fund." This was a measure to stop the current trend, which, according to the bill, would leave close to \$100,000 unaccount-

ed for next year, and ensure that any overestimates in funds would be used for Student Activities as needed. The senate passed the bill 29-0.

In an e-mail Thursday to Fitzgerald and The Flat Hat, Jones wrote that Bert Brummer, the College's director of financial operations, "has confirmed that all dollars collected through the student activities fee ... are allocated to the various student activities accounts based on each accounts [sic] percentage of the student activities budget." Jones added that while, in estimating the student activities budget, the College uses a conservative student count, this is done so that the collected student fees aren't less than the Student Activities budget allocates. There is no cap on the student activities fund, and the entire \$82 fee is properly

**See SENATE + page 3**

## College looks to adjust studies

BY JAMES DAMON  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

After a two-and-a-half-year period, the College is now wrapping up its re-accreditation review. This process, required of all federally-funded colleges and universities, mandates that the College review and implement new measures to increase institutional effectiveness and to improve the quality of education at the College. Though students will not directly experience most of the results of this review, a focus on independent learning might change the nature of education at the college.

To improve educational quality, Provost Geoffrey Feiss and others involved in the re-accreditation process said they want to make independent learning achievable for all students. According to a survey compiled by Professor David Aday, director of accreditation at the college, 75 percent of current seniors participated in an independent

**See COLLEGE + page 3**



ALICE HAHN • THE FLAT HAT

**Chief of the Executive Staff junior James Evans and SA Vice President junior Amanda Norris exchange notes at Tuesday evening's session.**



Inside this week’s issue

VARIETY



Pedro (Efren Ramirez) of “Napoleon Dynamite” is here to speak about his passion for acting. As if that weren’t enough, he will also DJ a dance party tomorrow night.

See PEDRO, page 7.

REVIEWS



Jenny Lewis and Blake Sennett of the band Rilo Kiley face off in a side project showdown.

See RILO, page 10.

OPINIONS



A College philosophy professor examines the connection between alcohol and sexual assault.

See OVERPROTECTION, page 6.

SPORTS



Officially they are a club sport. Unofficially they are one of the hottest teams in the nation. Check out the College’s synchronized swimming team.

See RACKET, page 14.

Navigation bar for The Flat Hat website with links: Find People, BBC News, The Flat Hat, Versiontracker, WSJ Campus Edition, Best Page in. Includes a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section with a link to the FAQ page.

In case our Frequently Asked Questions page doesn’t have an answer for your question, click Resources > Staff to e-mail sections or staffers. Members of The Flat Hat listed there will be happy to answer any concerns you may have.

See <http://flatthat.wm.edu/>

OPINIONS, PAGE 5 + VARIETY, PAGE 7 + REVIEWS, PAGE 10  
BRIEFS, PAGE 12 + SPORTS, PAGE 13

The Flat Hat 'Stabilitas et Fides' masthead. Contact information for the editorial board and advertising department. A list of staff members including Michael J. Schobel, Max Fisher, and others. A notice about the submission deadline for the Friday issue.

Beyond the ‘Burg

RIVALS TEAM UP TO INCREASE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. — Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will be joining forces at upcoming basketball games to raise awareness about sexual assault on both campuses.

The initiative is the first outreach to students from Helping to Advocate for Violence Ending Now, a Duke-UNC faculty training program designed to provide a support network for students who were sexually assaulted.

The first event will take place at the Dean E. Smith Center Feb. 25, during the Duke-UNC women’s basketball game. Tables will be set up outside as students file in, and volunteers will pass out give-aways like T-shirts, wristbands and information pamphlets.

A similar event will be held at the March 9 men’s game in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Organizers of the events will attempt to increase the awareness level on both campuses at the basketball games, which they said will provide a great platform to inform a large body of students from both universities.

The basketball outreach program is sponsored by a \$2,500 grant from the Robertson Scholars Program. Another grant for \$2,500 was approved in May by the Robertson Scholars to start the HAVEN program.

“We’ve been very blessed by the Robertson,” UNC’s assistant dean of students Melinda Manning said.

HAVEN, launched fall of 2005, is a program available to faculty and staff on both campuses. It trains them to become informed allies for victims of sexual assault. ...

Faculty who have been trained attach a HAVEN sign to their office door.

Boyd said she hopes students learn through outreach programs that they can talk safely with any HAVEN members.

The program saw much success in its first semester, according to sexual assault support services coordinator at Duke’s Women’s Center Jean Leonard, who noted that 48 staff members were trained from both the UNC and Duke campuses. ...

— By Wenjia Zhang, The Chronicle (Duke U.)

— compiled by austin wright

WEEKEND  
WEATHER

Friday



High 52°  
Low 34°

Saturday



High 46°  
Low 31°

Sunday



High 43°  
Low 26°

Source: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

POLICE  
BEAT



Tuesday, Jan. 31 — A student reported that he located his bicycle, which he had reported as stolen Jan. 30. He reportedly found it locked up with someone else’s bike at Dupont Hall. 1

— A non-student at the University Center was given a trespassing warning and escorted

off campus. 2

Wednesday, Feb. 1 — A student reported that a College van, which he used for the Sharpe Community Scholars program, was stolen. He said that he parked the van outside Spotswood Hall and when he returned five minutes later,

the van was gone. 3

Thursday, Feb. 2 — A male student at Giles Hall reported receiving numerous suspicious e-mails that seemed to have originated from his own e-mail account. 4

Friday, Feb. 3 — A non-student who was issued a trespassing warning Jan. 31 was reportedly seen at the College bookstore. Officers arrested him for alleged trespassing. 5

Saturday, Feb. 4 — A caller reported a noise complaint at the Graduate house. 6

— A resident assistant at the fraternity complex reported that a swastika had been spray-painted on the back of the units. 7

Sunday, Feb. 5 — A caller reported a noise complaint at the Graduate house. Upon arrival, an officer reported that everything was quiet. 6

— A male student was arrested at the Dawson circle for allegedly being drunk in public and alleged underage possession of alcohol. 8

— A resident assistant at the Delta Phi house reported a forced entry in the basement. A composite photograph, valued at \$800, and the fraternity charter, valued at \$250, were reportedly stolen. 9

Monday, Feb. 6 — The Dean of Students office at the Campus Center reported that someone may have hacked into the computer. 10

— A student reported that his bicycle was stolen at Unit M. The bike was valued at \$100. 7

— compiled by austin wright

STREET BEAT :  
Are you going to Charter Day?



I’m going ... because I wasn’t able to make it to inauguration and I want to hear Kaine speak.

+ Ryan Marion, junior



No, I’m not going because Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. aren’t my thing.

+ Leslie Short, junior



I’m going to be painting houses with my church.

+ Ashley Ahlbrand, junior



I’m going. I love Tim Kaine. I’m a senior, and it means a lot to me.

+ Trina Chakraborty, senior

— photos and interviews by Lauren Bryant



# Retired executives open doors for business students

By MEERA FICKLING  
THE FLAT HAT

Spotlighted in a Jan. 23 Wall Street Journal feature as a “unique and powerful asset,” the College’s Mason Business School’s Executive Partners Program is an innovative new concept that takes advantage of Williamsburg’s community by connecting business leaders who reside in Williamsburg with students in the business school.

The executive partners share their knowledge and experience with the students, helping them find contacts in the business world, honing their skills and assisting professors. Most participants in the program are full-time MBAs, but the partners also give presentations for evening and executive MBAs.

The program is also beginning to involve undergraduates “on a very

selective basis,” Executive Partners Director Ed Shugrue said. “We plan to gradually expand into these other business school programs based on our ability, making sure we don’t undermine the work we are already doing in the full time MBA program.”

Recruiting for the program is done informally; participants are generally the first to approach the business school because of their interest in working with students. This has resulted in particularly dedicated volunteers.

“If you don’t have a group of volunteers who are willing to put in the time and effort that we do, it will never work,” Business School Dean Lawrence Pulley told The Wall Street Journal. “We are very fortunate to have that here in Williamsburg.”

The executive partners’ activities with students range from in-class lectures to consulting projects in the

field. Designed to mirror workshops currently offered to senior executives, the recently created two-year Leadership Development Program offers all MBAs a personal coach to address leadership strengths and weaknesses. Executive partners work with the school’s Career Services department to review students’ resumes and practice job interviews. In the MBA Management Communications Course, students form a mock “Board of Directors,” providing them the opportunity to hone their presentation skills and receive feedback on their projects. The executive partners supplement the faculty, revising their curricula to be relevant to the job market and sometimes serve as adjunct professors. Currently, two executive partners are teaching an elective course on mergers and acquisitions. In working with students, they share the extensive contacts they have made during their careers.

The executive partners represent a wide variety of industries, including energy, computers, government, telecommunications, aerospace, electronics, healthcare and education, and about 30 percent of them have international career experience. They hail from 27 different skill areas, including finance, product development and communications.

Alumni had previously given presentations about their careers and experience, but they were not formally involved in the MBA program. Originally, the program was created to help second-year MBA students with their required consulting projects for regional companies, expanding over the next few years. Envisioned by Pulley and marketing professor Don Messmer, who wanted to take advantage of the number of top businesspeople who retire to Williamsburg, the program started in 1998 with just 22 Executive Partners, growing to 89 by 2005.



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT  
*Business School Dean Lawrence Pulley started the Executives Partners program in 1998 to take advantage of the experience of local retirees.*

## COLLEGE

FROM PAGE 1

learning experience of some kind while at the College.

“We have a major intellectual problem here,” Feiss said. “We need to determine a common set of characteristics of these independent learning experiences in disciplines as different as music and math or physics and Spanish.”

Independent learning experiences currently considered at the College include honors seminars, independent study opportunities and research opportunities. The College deems both credit and non-credit opportunities as examples of independent learning.

Though the structure has not been determined, Aday characterized its purpose as “an opportunity for students to develop their own ideas and pursue their own research.”

The College belongs to the South-

ern Association of Colleges and Schools, an organization comprised of most southern schools in the United States. The association decides what standards should be adopted by its member schools. Every 10 years, schools are reviewed to make sure they act in compliance with these ground rules. In order for students to transfer or apply to graduate school, their college must be accredited.

“We started preparing for this review two-and-a-half-years ago,” Aday said. “[The preparation process] can be a real burden of time and effort.” He added that the process “adds incentive and a sharper focus” to problems on campus.

According to Aday, the review process has also made the planning and decision making processes at the College more effective. He cited the administration’s recent candidness regarding rape as an example.

The College’s offsite review took place this past November. A follow-up review will take place March 15.

## JUNIOR

FROM PAGE 1

stay. I want to change that. If Williamsburg was more inviting to young people, I may be more people would stay on after graduating from the College.”

Members of Sievers’ campaign said that Sievers’ candidacy provides an opportunity for both students at the College and members of the community.

“I think it’s important for students to realize that David’s campaign is a chance to unite Williamsburg,” Joshua Specht, treasurer for Sievers’ campaign, said. “David’s campaign is a chance for students to get involved in local politics and have a voice in the city.”

An on-campus organization, “Sievers Believers,” now exists for students who want to become involved with promoting Sievers’ campaign. The first meeting will be Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. in Tucker 216. Students can e-mail Ryan Jackson at [rjack@wm.edu](mailto:rjack@wm.edu) or visit Sievers’ campaign website at [www.vote-sievers.com](http://www.vote-sievers.com).

## SENATE

FROM PAGE 1

allotted, Jones said.

The second bill passed by the senate provided for \$2,550 to be allocated to the Mason School of Business MBA program, which would allow four business students to travel to the University of Colorado and participate in a Net Impact Case Competition with 19 other top American business schools. The bill was proposed by junior Sen. Richard Hinman and included a guest presentation by Net Impact Committee Chair Colin Jones.

Hinman and Jones requested the funds because the College’s business program was invited to the competition after the deadline had passed for the executive appropriations committee to issue funding for gradu-

ate programs. Jones said that the senate was the Mason School of Business’s last hope for acquiring the funding, which would pay for attending students’ necessities, such as hotel, airfare and registration at the program.

The bill was hotly debated among the senators. Some questioned whether or not paying for things such as food and travel were within the senate’s powers and responsibilities. However, Lowe said that “it is the senate’s decision how we distribute funds among different student organizations.” The bill eventually passed 14-6.

Other issues addressed at the meeting included the possibility of developing safer pathways from campus to New Town, updates on plans for sexual assault awareness week and the modification of a bill to help train freshman senate officers in the SA’s budgetary process.

## ATTACKED

FROM PAGE 1

instance I can recall where someone exercising her right to participate in a peaceful expression of her beliefs has been attacked,” he said. “If this attack occurred because of a difference with the viewpoint being expressed, the offense is doubled, doubled because it injured a member of our community and because it is an assault on our right to free expression.”

He asked anyone with information about the alleged attach to contact Campus Police.

This is not the first time that a Student for Life member has reported an attack. Last week sophomore Scott Percic was wearing a Students for Life shirt with the Dr. Seuss quote, “a person is a person, no matter how small,” when an unidentified female threw a cup of water at him.

Tuesday’s demonstration, which the group billed as a memorial, was one of several events hosted by the group for its second annual “Pro-Life Week.” Wednesday evening Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery, lectured on an alleged link between abortion and breast cancer.

Sophomore Danny Cogut, public affairs officer for the group, said that he thought the week ran smoothly.

“We were pretty successful,” he said. “We want to show people that it’s okay to be pro-life, that we’re just not a bunch of religious fanatics ... We are a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization; we try to be as inclusive as possible.”

# Steelers’ nutritionist gives students tips for eating well

By STEVE AUSTIN  
THE FLAT HAT

Nutritionist for the Pittsburgh Steelers Leslie Bonci promoted healthy diets and debunked nutrition myths in a discussion in the University Center’s Commonwealth Auditorium Tuesday. Bonci, who also serves as the director of sports nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, consults with the University of Pittsburgh, Olympic athletes, the Steelers and other professional teams in the area, and she advised coaches and athletes at the College earlier in the day.

“Are your eating habits supporting your goals or going against them?” Bonci asked her audience of nearly 100 students and student-athletes. She stressed the importance of enjoying food and not getting sucked into the many popular dieting rules floating around.

Her main recommendation for a healthy lifestyle was having a proper breakfast, citing its importance for physical and mental rejuvenation.

“We don’t store fuel in our bodies — we aren’t camels,” she said. “We need food to rev up.”

Bonci added that caffeine and multivitamins did not constitute breakfast. She said that a multivitamin mineral supplement may “just give you a well-supplemented crappy diet.”

She further advised students get a breakfast of roughly 400 calories and include some fat to prolong the feeling of fullness.

“People who eat more in the morning eat considerably less during the day,” she said.

Bonci talked about nutrition myths, including what she said was the false belief that one could never drink too much water.

“The bottled water industry has done a real number on us,” she said. She elaborated, stating that there exists an upper limit on the fluids our bodies can take.

She said that once the body consumes too much water, “it wreaks havoc” and changes sodium amounts in the blood. However, without proper hydration, the body does not burn any fat. She advised women and men who exercise lightly to drink 11 and 15 cups of water per day, respectively.

Next, she dispelled the myth that caffeinated beverages dehydrate. According to Bonci, “they simply make you pee more rapidly.” Nevertheless, she had few positive things to say about caffeine in general. When clients ask if caffeine burns fat, she often tells them to take a look around at Starbucks.



ALLIE VEINOTE • THE FLAT HAT  
*Leslie Bonci told students the best thing they can do to ensure a healthy lifestyle is to eat a hearty breakfast of about 400 calories each morning.*

“Not everybody there’s a pencil,” she said.


Yet many energy drinks promise more than “stimulating metabolism.” Red Bull’s website declares that their drink “increases performance.” However, according to Bonci, these types of drink provide very little energy.

“Your heart might be racing, but the effects on your body can fade in 30 minutes,” Bonci said.

She also provided numerous tips on dieting in general. She said that one shouldn’t categorize food as good or bad, saying that such a notion was absurd. She said that a healthy diet should not cut out certain food groups and that diets are not supposed to work quickly. Bonci said that dieters should expect to wait six months before observing significant results.

Bonci spoke briefly about body image, encouraging students to take a positive approach and simply to focus on fueling their bodies on a daily basis and eating a balanced diet of foods. She also warned against the negative repercussions of bad eating habits caused and affected by stress.

“Everyone has times where they’re stressed. Not eating right can make these times happen a great deal more,” she said.



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# Under the MICROSCOPE

## ◆ SCIENTISTS FIND NEW PROMISE FOR HUMANS IN DOG GENOME

By BECKY EASLEY  
THE FLAT HAT

Dogs will soon join the ranks of mice and humans as one of the few animals who can boast a fully-mapped genome. According to a 2005 National Geographic report, researchers at the Broad Institute of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University have sequenced 99 percent of the domestic dog’s genome. In 2003, 75 percent of the poodle’s genome was sequenced. Later, a female boxer named Tasha was the first domestic dog to have its genome fully sequenced. Researches believe that dogs have the potential to play a major role in scientific research.

Because of humans’ close historical relationship with dogs, researchers have access to data about how long different breeds have been in existence and what traits were selected when creating breeds. This allows scientists to use the pedigrees of dog breeds to identify when disease occurred in dogs and potentially identify the genes responsible for the disease.

Single nucleotide polymorphisms, commonly called SNPs, are small changes in a genome compared to the normal genome. By identifying SNPs, scientists can match changes in the genome to the occurrence of specific diseases.

According to Professor Lizabeth Allison, molecular genetics professor at the College, about 7 million SNPs exist in the human population, and these SNPs can identify some diseases, such as Alzheimer’s. While the change in genome might not guarantee that a person will have the disease, it does mean that the person is more susceptible to it.

The study showed that the domestic dog population contains more than 2.5 million SNPs that could potentially be used to identify diseases in dog; the information obtained may also be applicable to humans.

The findings were published in the December 2005 issue of Nature. The paper compares the dog genome to the mouse and human genomes. A constant problem in research is finding an organism that best represents a human. Mice are easy to research and have a similar genome to humans. However, mice and humans do not share human

diseases. Dogs, on the other hand, share many diseases with humans, including cancer, blindness, heart disease, cataracts, epilepsy, hip dysplasia and deafness. The domestic dog has been around between 15,000 and 100,000 years and was bred based on a variety of characteristics, such as size, color, fur and skull shape, as well as for behaviors that impact obedience, aggression or herding. Today, there are approximately 400 breeds that were developed by cultivating these traits.

Because certain diseases are associated with individual breeds, the new sequence may allow research to isolate the genes that cause various diseases in dogs and apply the findings to humans.

According to the current mammalian genome, mice and humans share about five percent of the functional elements of their genomes. Evidence from recent findings in Nature show that humans and dogs also share about five percent of their functional genome. This finding is significant because it suggests that these common elements are particular to mammals.

A fully-mapped dog genome may be used in many branches of biology, including evolutionary research and various medial applications. The genome may also minimize the times when it is necessary to use dogs as laboratory animals. If researchers can find cures to diseases common in both dogs and humans with the new genome, both populations will benefit.



COURTESY PHOTO • PHYSICS DEPARTMENT  
*In 2004, Tasha, a female boxer, became the first domesticated dog to have its genome fully sequenced.*

# World Beat: Asia Muslims riot over cartoons

By MAXIM LOIT  
THE FLAT HAT

Violent protests have raged in the Muslim world over the printing of various cartoons of the prophet Mohammed. First published over four months ago in the small Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten, the original dozen cartoons included one that depicted Mohammed wearing a bomb as a turban. According to the Feb. 1 edition of the Independent Online, the paper intended the cartoons to be “part of an ongoing public debate on freedom of expression,” but it is considered sacrilegious by many in the Muslim world to depict the prophet Mohammed in

The prime minister refused to meet with the ambassadors, telling them to go through the legal system. However, a Danish court dismissed their complaint on free speech grounds.

The controversial nature of the cartoon became well known in late January and newspapers throughout Europe began reprinting it. This led to angry street demonstrations and riots in countries with large Muslim populations, from Somalia to the Philippines. Most protests have been peaceful, with noticeable violence only in Syria, Iran, Afghanistan and Lebanon.

Other European countries have also been targeted for running the

pretext of freedom of expression, so let’s see if they mean what they say and also print these Holocaust cartoons,” an editor for the newspaper explained, Agence France-Presse reported Feb. 7.

The next day, however, the Danish paper that ignited this controversy, Jyllands-Posten, reported that they would be willing to publish the Iranian Holocaust cartoons.

“My newspaper is trying to establish a contact with the Iranian newspaper, and we would run the cartoons the same day as they publish them,” editor Flemming Rose said, according to the Feb. 8 edition of CNN.com.

Although the mood is still very

### SITUATION:

*Over four months ago, a Danish newspaper printed 12 cartoons that portrayed the prophet Mohammed negatively, including one that pictured Mohammed with a bomb as a turban. The cartoons were spread by Danish Muslims to the Middle East and other Muslim regions and have been denounced, often violently. In the Muslim world, it is considered sacrilegious to portray the prophet in any form, and as a result, protests aimed at Danish embassies, some violent in nature, have broken out across the world. In addition, Iran is leading a charge among Muslim nations to sever diplomatic relations with Denmark and boycott Danish goods. As the protests have increased, European newspapers have been reprinting the cartoons on free speech grounds. The United States and moderate Muslim leaders have denounced the violence. One Iranian newspaper has responded to the controversy by sponsoring a Holocaust cartoon contest.*

any form. Outraged crowds attacked Danish embassies in the capitals of Iran, Syria and Lebanon, The Chicago Tribune reported Feb. 7.

Some Islamic governments are also severing diplomatic ties with Denmark and enforcing a boycott of Danish goods, with Iran leading the charge.

After the original publication of the cartoons, several well-connected Danish Muslims toured the Middle East showing the cartoons to crowds and leaders. The ambassadors of 10 Islamic countries also asked for a meeting with the Danish Prime Minister and called on him to “take all those responsible [for the cartoons] to task,” Bloomberg.com reported Jan. 30.

cartoons. After an angry mob ransacked and burned both the Norwegian and Danish embassies in Syria, the two prime ministers accused Syria of failing to provide adequate protection, Reuters reported Feb. 5.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice backed up these feelings Wednesday. “Iran and Syria have gone out of their way to inflame sentiments and have used this for their own purposes,” she said, the Feb. 8 edition of CNN.com reported.

In a strange twist on the story, Iran’s largest newspaper, Hamshahri, announced Tuesday that it would sponsor an international competition for a Holocaust cartoon.

“The Western papers printed these sacrilegious cartoons on the

tense in much of the Middle East, with continuing protests and marches, there may be light at the end of the tunnel. The Associated Press reported Feb. 8 that the leader of Afghanistan’s most influential Islamic organization, the Ulama Council, said, “We condemn the cartoons, but this does not justify violence. These rioters are defaming the name of Islam.”

King Abdullah II of Jordan, known as a moderate ruler, said during a meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush that while the cartoons should be condemned, Muslims “should do it forthfully, articulately, express their views peacefully,” CNN.com reported Feb. 8.

## LANDLORD

FROM PAGE 1

When she makes herself available, tenants reported that she is confrontational and rude.

“She’s made me cry,” said a female senior. “She’s made most everyone [who lives in the complex] cry.”

Victor is well-known among her tenants for frequently assigning fees, often with questionable reason.

“There are lots of fines,” sophomore tenant Lauren Queen said. “She has charged us \$30 a day for having our window open without the screen in.”

There is no provision in the lease for such a fine, but Victor denies that she ever fined Queen for this.

“She definitely has favorites,” Queen said.

Inconsistent fines also may be in violation of Virginia commonwealth property codes; specifically, the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, or VRLTA. Section 55-248.17.A states that a landlord’s rules and regulations must “apply to all tenants on the premises in a fair manner” and must “be consented to in writing in the lease agreement.”

Victor has also allegedly charged inconsistent fees for unlocking doors. Though the lease agreement states under rules and regulations, no, nine, that the cost for this service is between \$20 and \$40 depending on the time of day, many tenants reported being charged considerably more. Four anonymous tenants reported independent incidents of being charged either \$50 or \$100 for Victor to unlock their apartment door. Victor denied knowledge of such incidents.

“[Victor] makes a fortune on these fines,” an anonymous male senior tenant said. “And her rules are always different. You never know what to expect [because] ... she makes it all up.”

Other allegations of her tenants may mean that Victor could be in violation of Va. Code, sections 55-248.18 A and B. The former forbids the landlord from entering an apartment uninvited in any case but an emergency. Many tenants reported that she often entered when there was no emergency. The latter provides that if a tenant is removed for maintenance, he or she must be provided alternate living space. However, one tenant reported being rendered homeless while Victor closed her apartments for maintenance.

In response to allegations that she has entered apartments without express permission or invitation, Victor said, “That could happen. I have many contractors that come and sometimes they’re late. That would be a time when one could say that an apartment was entered without permission for that certain time.”

Victor added that, although she had let herself and contractors in without specific permission on some occasions, she had never done so for a personal visitor.

Many tenants also complained of waiting “an extremely long time for [Victor] to fix repairs,” according to a male senior tenant.

“When we moved in she promised to fix the broken counter,” a female junior tenant said. “We had to ask her about it for six months before she did anything.”

Victor acknowledged this incident but said she did not feel obligated to replace the counter sooner because

“it was not really broken.”

“There was throw-up on the stairs one weekend,” one tenant said. “I asked her to clean it up ... but she refused. She left it there for two weeks. We had to jump around to get to and from our apartment.”

Two other tenants independently confirmed that there was vomit left on the stairs for a two-week period.

“That vomit, that I am aware of, I was not aware of it,” Victor said in response. “It was called to my attention and cleaned up. I cleaned it up myself right then. I am not aware of that.”

Fortunately for students, maintenance issues can be taken to and solved by the Williamsburg Codes and Compliance office.

“They can come to us,” Williamsburg Codes Compliance Administrator John Catlett said. “Concerns about maintenance need to be put in writing [by the tenant]. A response then has to be made by the landlord within five days.”

According to Catlett, if a response is not made in those five days, the tenant can contact his office at 220-6136, and an inspector will issue the landlord a correction notice. If the landlord still does not act, the Codes and Compliances office will follow-up with a notice of violation and, finally, will take the landlord to court.

Earlier this week, many students who live at King and Queens came home to notices on their doors stating that their lease would not be renewed for the coming year. A male student said that Victor would not provide justification to him or any other tenant who had received a similar note. He stated that she did not offer anybody a chance to explain themselves or attempt to keep their lease.

Victor confirmed this and stated, “I don’t have to have a reason.”

Another tenant estimated that between one-third and one-half of the tenants had received such notices.

“She always does this to the tenants she doesn’t like: the people who complain about slow maintenance, or refuse to pay her stupid fines, or just don’t suck up to her enough,” a senior in her second year at the complex said.

All but three of the tenants who spoke to The Flat Hat spoke on the condition of anonymity. All of these anonymous underclass students cited the same reason: “I am afraid I will lose my lease if I am quoted in The Flat Hat.” All tenants also expressed a fear of retribution from Victor. One tenant, a junior, cited the fact that sophomore Alicia Murphy had recently been notified by Victor that her lease would not be renewed.

“[Murphy] was quoted in [the Jan. 27 issue of] The Flat Hat talking about King and Queens, and the next week Gladys [Victor] left a notice on her door saying she couldn’t live here next year,” the student said. “I don’t want that to happen to me.”

The VRLTA states in section 55-248.39 that a landlord “may not retaliate ... by causing a termination of the rental agreement” against any tenant that has issued a formal complaint. The code goes on to state that any such maligned tenant is entitled to “recovery of actual damages” from the landlord.

“I have no idea why [students expressed] discontent,” Victor said. “I’m a mother, I’m a nurse. I try to make a clean, safe, quiet environment. I do the best I can.”

  
*Paradise Now* (PG-13)  
Fri., Feb. 10-Mon., Feb. 13  
7 and 8:45 p.m.  
Feb. 10, 11, 13  
screening room (35 seats)

### Coming Attraction

*Breakfast on Pluto* (R)  
Sun., Feb. 12-Fri., Feb. 17  
6:45 and 9 p.m.  
Feb. 12, 14-16  
screening room (35 seats)

### Live Performances

*Playwrights Premiere Theatre presents*  
*Love Letters* by A. R. Gurney  
Fri., Feb. 10, Sat., Feb. 11 and Tues.,  
Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m., Sun.,  
Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.  
Adults \$24, Seniors \$18,  
Students \$10

*Family Focus-Williamsburg and Grafton present*  
*Wiggle, Jiggle, Clap, and Sing Along with Betsy Q*  
Sat., Feb. 11 at 11 a.m.  
General admission \$5,  
Seniors/Students/Children \$4

*The Kimball Theatre presents*  
*Moliere Than Thou: A One-Man Introduction To the Playwright's Classic Comedies*  
*Written and Performed by Timothy Mooney*  
Wed., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m.  
General admission \$10,  
Seniors/Students \$7

*The Williamsburg Youth Orchestra presents*  
*A Night of Romance Featuring Christopher Mooney*  
Sat., Feb. 18 at 8 p.m.  
Adults \$12, Students \$5

# LEAP

## into Leadership

WEDNESDAY

February 15th

4:15-5:30 PM

University Center

James Room

# The Radical Leap

Questions ???

Contact Eric Eickhoff

ejeick@wm.edu

Visit us online.  
<http://flathat.wm.edu>



# OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

## Controversy, or consensus?

Just by glancing at this page, anyone can see that sexual issues remain front-and-center in American public life. Specifically, of course, the issue of abortion has received an abnormal amount of attention throughout the last year, provoking debate across the political spectrum. Despite the relative calm since the partial-birth debates of the mid-1990s, the subject has returned in full force, largely due to openings on the Supreme Court and the jurists selected by President George W. Bush to fill them.

The debate extends to our campus, however, not solely because of the political fights in Washington, but also because of an event that occurred this past week. As the reader may note from page one, a female student was physically harmed Tuesday while holding a peaceful demonstration near the Crim Dell. The demonstration, which reportedly utilized little more than candles and pamphlets, was in response to the practice of abortion and was part of a larger group of activities run by William & Mary Students for Life “Pro-Life Week.” According to witnesses, another female student assaulted one of the demonstrators, striking her and pushing her to the ground.

Needless to say, the violence displayed by the unidentified female student was highly inappropriate and is simply unacceptable behavior. Just last September, The Flat Hat’s editors praised the response of moderate religious groups to the hateful and obscene protest led partially by Life & Liberty Ministries, pointing out that the tolerance with which LLM was received was a shining illustration of the maturity and wisdom of our fellow students. Unfortunately, the student body’s reputation has been tarnished as a result of the unwarranted and unprovoked violence used by a single student.

While common sense seemingly demands that opponents on either side of the abortion debate can agree on little to nothing in this fight, we suggest that an alternate explanation deserves some attention. From our points of view, representing a wide array of positions on the question of abortion, there is opportunity for consensus among those on both sides. While certainly the definitions of life, privacy and the meaning of liberty will likely never be held uniformly by all persons on this issue, there are a few areas in which reasonable individuals can come to agreement.

The first is that violence is unacceptable in all circumstances. No matter how strongly one feels about the rights of certain parties in the context of abortion, inflicting serious physical or mental harm onto others can only serve to destroy the respect and tolerance necessary for a healthy and functioning society. Another is that, whether one follows the creed of the “Pro-Life” or the “Pro-Choice” crowds, one must admit that the abortion procedure is a remedial measure only. That is to say, it is never a good thing for a woman to face such a decision, to have to make a choice about whether to terminate a pregnancy. All reasonable persons can agree that it would be preferable, if a pregnancy is unwanted, that either there are acceptable social alternatives, such as adoption, or that the conception was prevented from occurring in the first place.

What strikes the observer of this situation, more than just its nuances and emotional appeals, is the unusual frequency with which this debate arises. In other words, why is this so often an issue in our public discourse? It is not merely a controversy when Supreme Court seats come open — though such events do increase the intensity of debate — because this issue, in a political sense, is openly and publicly exploited by those on both the Left and the Right. Like Medicare or Social Security, Republicans and Democrats draw on large wells of support among their base when they renew hostilities over abortion, even if there is little cause for new concern or dispute.

Given the ability for reasonable opponents and proponents of abortion to find common judicial and moral ground, we find it repulsive that America’s political parties so shamelessly manipulate the passions of the public through propaganda like talking points and spin. Instead of solving the real problems that are or will soon be upon us — deficit spending, living wages, environmental protection, healthcare accessibility, education, human rights, criminal justice — our leaders cling to, and thereby keep alive, controversy to retain their limited and short-sighted influence.

Politicians who do so are essentially mortgaging our future. Our generation, as imminent leaders and public citizens, will have to face these hard choices. Can we not put aside the things — contentious though they may be — on which we can tentatively but ultimately agree, in order to focus on the real crises of the new millennium?

### Editorial Board:

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## Who you callin’ an Orc?

Last Tuesday, Sarah Weddington, the woman who successfully argued Roe v. Wade in front of the Supreme Court, spoke in the University Center Commonwealth auditorium. I must say that I expected more of the woman who won such a monumental case. I do not say so because I am pro-life; I was expecting to disagree with Weddington’s opinion. What disappointed me was Weddington’s intolerant and inaccurate characterization of the pro-life movement both on campus and across the United States.

Weddington consistently compartmentalized pro-lifers as radically religious and extremely far-right. She claimed that pro-lifers want contraception outlawed, and she even went so far as to mention that, at some point in history, there was a law forbidding masturbation, insinuating that the pro-life movement is attempting to hearken back to archaic forms of intense sexual control. She concluded her speech with a dramatic “Lord of the Rings” analogy, in which pro-choicers were the good Frodo and friends, while pro-lifers were the evil, monstrous Orcs, attempting to destroy the world.

She did state one position with which I agreed: if you are going to oppose abortion, you must be willing to offer resources to a woman that provide adequate care for her baby after she or he is born. Weddington ignored the fact that a majority of the pro-life movement is doing just that. Feminists for Life, the “very anti-choice” organization that Weddington disparaged when mentioning the membership of Chief Justice John Roberts’ wife, recently helped draft the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Pregnancy and Parenting Resources Act. This act is currently poised to move through Congress, and, if passed, would secure funding for colleges to establish pregnancy resources for women on campus.

Moreover, crisis pregnancy care centers that provide free counseling and baby supplies to pregnant women already abound throughout the country; two operate right here in Williamsburg. College pro-life groups, such as Students for Life, have also sponsored pregnancy resources forums to evaluate and improve the

available resources for women on campus. Feminists for Life, Students for Life and most pro-life groups are non-sectarian. For Weddington to construct the pro-life movement as anti-woman and purely religious is an inaccurate and unfair representation.

Weddington did discuss the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush Nov. 5, 2003. The law prohibits partial-birth abortion, a procedure that is defined as inducing labor, vaginally delivering the fetus and subsequently killing the fetus after it has partially exited the womb. It provides exceptions for cases in which the mother’s life is in danger, even though the Stenberg v. Carhart Supreme Court hearings in 2000 did not yield a single example of a situation in which the procedure was necessary to protect the mother’s life.

Weddington refused to call the law by name, instead referring to it as the, “law prohibiting abortions in the second or third trimesters.” First, this is inaccurate, as the law outlaws a procedure without prohibiting abortions after a certain time in the pregnancy. It is also an attempt to ignore the widely accepted consensus that partial-birth abortion is thinly veiled infanticide. She was sure to mention that a majority of Americans polled did not want Roe v. Wade overturned, but she skipped over the results of a January 2003 Gallup Poll in which 70 percent of the American public were in favor of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. Along the same lines, while she cited that some medical groups supported Roe v. Wade as promoting a woman’s physical well-being, she must have forgotten that the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act was endorsed by the American Medical Association, which considered the procedure a threat to the mother’s health.

In short, I found Weddington’s speech to be incomprehensive, inaccurate and, more importantly, intolerant. Her lack of respect for differing viewpoints was opposed to the College’s sense of community and commitment to ideological diversity. Next time, I would appreciate a pro-choice speaker who can defend his or her viewpoint without resorting to illegitimate attacks on the opposing side.

Rebecca Hamfeldt is a sophomore at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



## Sex bias

If we are serious about sexual assault, we should reject principles that perplex us when honestly applied. Some are now advising us to accept, as a guide to personal responsibility and the prevention of sexual assault, the intoxication principle: an intoxicated person cannot consent to sex. So should we accept it? If so, how shall we apply it to Jack and Jill, who had sex while both were intoxicated? According to this principle, neither Jack nor Jill consented to sex, which is perplexing about which, if either, has been assaulted. If Jill has, so has Jack, and if Jack has not, neither has Jill.

Consider a replacement: the has-been-drinking principle: a person who has been drinking cannot consent to sex. But what if Jack and Jill have sex after drinking but neither is intoxicated? The issue of sexual assault is no less baffling here than before: if Jill has been assaulted, so has Jack, and if Jack has not, neither has Jill.

Moreover, the has-been-drinking principle excuses too much. Surely responsibility for resisting the non-intoxicating effects of alcohol applies to men and women alike. Should we then reconsider the intoxication principle? What if Jack and Jill have sex while Jack has been drinking and Jill is intoxicated? On the intoxication principle, Jack is responsible for having sex but Jill is not, which undoubtedly is sometimes sexual assault.

There are two nagging difficulties, however. Suppose when Jill sobers she sincerely denies being sexually assaulted because she wanted to have sex while intoxicated. Must we conclude that a sober, intelligent woman cannot know whether she was assaulted? What, then, are we to think when she says that she was? Also, what if Jack and Jill have sex when he is intoxicated and she has simply been drinking? An even-handed, honest application of the intoxication principle should conclude that Jill sexually assaulted Jack. But many do not find this sexual assault at all, even if Jack sincerely objects when sober that he never consented to sex.

In charging men with assault, universities sometimes evoke principles that hold men, but

not women, responsible for sex when alcohol is involved. For well thought-out reasons, our legal system rejects such principles, prompting universities to devise legal systems all their own. They sometimes implement a gender-differentiated drinking principle: if a woman has been drinking, she cannot consent to sex, but a man consents to all his sexual behavior whether he is fully sober, has been drinking or is intoxicated. This principle recognizes men as fully responsible sexual agents and reduces women to truncated facsimiles.

The perplexing thing here is not about how to apply this principle, but why, given the sexist view it so repugnantly promotes. Seeing women in this way may very well motivate the desire to protect them, but the desire to protect helpless women from powerful men is plausibly the most persistent, gender-shared source of sexism ever known. Notoriously, it does anything but protect. Rather it cripples by endorsing a central thought behind most sexual assaults involving alcohol: men, whatever their condition, are in control, and women, under the slightest encumbrance, need someone else to control events for them.

We would all do better to accept the fact that universities can take little more responsibility to protect those with the legal right to drink than society can. To insist that they do is to invite and even pressure universities to subvert the law. To what end? Providing an utterly safe environment for an extended adolescence to which no one has a right? It is that irresponsible expectation that feeds the difficult issues of sexual assault on college campuses, and we should give it up, along with the sentimentalized view that universities are families. Nurturing that sentimentality will only nurture the culture of sexual behavior we are allegedly trying to change.

Finally, with civil liberties now so precarious, we must be especially cautious of the impulse to over-protect. More cautious still should we be of wonderful men crusading at great speeds on white horses. Their protection, whether from terrorism or sexual assault, may trade doubtful security for precious choice and a clean conscience.

George Harris is the Chancellor Professor of Philosophy at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.





# Sievers promises ‘one Williamsburg’

Tuesday, a step was made in the right direction toward building a community with which we all can be content. As all students realize, the City of Williamsburg has not always had the warmest relationship with us. And, we cannot deny that we do not always express the most sentimental feelings toward the city. That bitterness and divide has built up over generations of students and city residents, but hopefully with the announcement of junior David Sievers’ run for city council, we can bridge the gap.

I had the chance homecoming weekend to talk with several early-’70s alumni who recounted how much “Williamsburg hated them.” Talking to students now, the sentiment has not changed much, especially in the last few years. I have to admit that I have contributed to this enmity by writing a column for The Progressive on student voting rights. I ended the article by saying that it was time to take action, which is exactly what happened in a way that could not be better for all of us.

Unlike the campaigns of two years ago, when students provoked lawsuits by the ACLU against Williamsburg, Sievers’ campaign has shown a unifying spirit. Those campaigns were counter-productive, pitting the students and the citizens of Williamsburg against each other in a battle where there could be no satisfactory conclusion. At the end of that confrontation, there could have only been a deeper divide and more bitterness.

This is what makes Sievers’ campaign unique. His campaign slogan of “Building One Williamsburg” considers reconciliation in a way that no other candidate’s does. More remarkably for a student, he devotes most of his time working on unifying issues, those that affect everyone in Williamsburg. His campaign embodies the spirit of

community. For Sievers, there seems to be no line between the College and the city. After all, we all work to make the same place better; be it by teaching children at Mathew Whaley Elementary School or helping displaced students after the Preston fire. It is a rare letter from Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler that does not include the word “community.” We are all intrinsically linked.

It is time now that we recognize that link and work to strengthen it. In The Progressive, I called for action. Sievers has acted significantly, taking the semester off to devote his time to his campaign. He has conducted his campaign in a way that will resolve our problems with Williamsburg and the city’s with us. However, this is not quite good enough yet. Our reconciliation, our deeper sense of community and another election cycle of bitterness for students hinges on one thing: getting Sievers elected.

A group of students is already collaborating to help Sievers win his campaign, and each one of them is strongly dedicated to his cause. More recently, Students for Sievers was formed to help obtain and organize students for the volunteer effort Sievers will need to win his campaign. I encourage everyone to come out. If you are willing to help with registration, we need you. If you are willing to change your driver’s license to reflect your CSU box, we need you. If you are willing to make and put up fliers, we need you. If you are a warm body who does not have time to do anything but lend moral support, we need you. We need everyone.

Come to the meetings for Students for Sievers or send an e-mail to siever@wm.edu and find out what you can do to help.

It is time to end the bitterness and strife. We have a community to build. Help us do it.

*Ryan Jackson is a freshman at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.*

# Campus recycling makes a difference

In the United States today, trash has become a serious problem. On any given day, Americans produce approximately 1 billion pounds of trash. Every three months, Americans send enough aluminum to the landfill to rebuild every commercial airplane in the country.

According to Pat Franklin, the executive director of the Container Recycling Institute, “we are literally throwing money away when we don’t reclaim valuable resources. Over the past 20 years we’ve trashed more than 11 million tons of aluminum beverage cans worth

over \$12 billion on today’s market.” And up to 50 percent of the landfill space in this country is filled with paper alone, another product that could have been recycled.

In an effort to produce as much as is thrown away, the United States has not only been unable to solve the problem but is actually making matters worse. Every time the United States produces a ton of new glass, for example, 27.8 pounds of pollutants are released into the air.

Yet there are still options for our nation. Today, recycling offers a more efficient and cleaner source of resources for our economy. The amount of energy and resources saved is often amazing. Recycling aluminum, for example, saves 95 percent of the energy that it would otherwise take to produce new aluminum. Successful aluminum recycling within the last 35 years has already added up to \$6.4 billion, which has been reinvested in the U.S. economy. Likewise, 56 percent less water and 64 percent less energy is used in producing recycled paper than new paper. And with the dangers of being too dependent on foreign oil becoming clearer, it is nice to know that for each ton of paper that Americans recycle, 380 gallons of oil are saved for other uses.

Now I know that recycling often becomes one of those things like helping the poor — everyone’s for it, but it just never seems to get to the top of the list. We

lead busy lives, and we have a lot of responsibilities to worry about. We know that there are problems that our nation is dealing with, but they seem so large and we wonder if normal, everyday people could really make a difference.

Luckily for the busy students at the College, recycling has been made incredibly easy. Just take the blue container that says “we recycle” that was in your room at the beginning of the year (or any other container you have handy) and set it near your trashcan. Then, the next time you have a piece of paper or aluminum can, just toss it in the recycling container, which should only require you to adjust your aim by a few inches. Because you have two containers, they both fill up slower, so you can wait longer before taking out either.

When you take out your recycling, the College has made it easy for you again by placing the blue recycling dumpsters right beside the green trash ones. To find the recycling dumpster nearest to you, go to [www.wm.edu/so/seac](http://www.wm.edu/so/seac) and click on the link near the top. Any questions can be sent to Jess Mackow at [jmack@wm.edu](mailto:jmack@wm.edu) or myself at [jdrell@wm.edu](mailto:jdrell@wm.edu).

Unfortunately, the recycling program here at the College comes with a catch: for the time being, it is only a trial program. Its success is based upon whether enough students take advantage of its services. If the amount recycled is too small, the program will be cut. Then, all of the recycled items that would have been remade into products Americans could reuse will again become just trash, destined to end up in landfills. If you would consider recycling, if only part of the time, I would personally thank you. With its strong community ethic, the College has accomplished many great feats in the past.

With a dedication to recycling on campus, we can do it again.

Evidence cited in this column is available from [www.anchoragerecycling.com/facts.htm](http://www.anchoragerecycling.com/facts.htm), [www.thomasrecycling.com/facts.htm](http://www.thomasrecycling.com/facts.htm) and [www.resourceful-schools.org/html/facts.html](http://www.resourceful-schools.org/html/facts.html)

*Joshua Rellick is a sophomore at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.*



# Diversity — only a dream?

I woke up the other night feeling unsettled. I had a lot on my mind, so I decided to go out for a walk. After getting bundled up, I headed out toward Lake Mataoka to think some things over. I walked and

walked, thinking, turning things over in my mind until I was just plain tired. There was something about the College that was simply unsettling to me.

After a while, I finally settled at a lonely bench in the quiet darkness somewhere deep in the Mataoka woods. After I had been sitting for a few moments, my eyes adjusted to the setting, and I noticed College President Gene Nichol sitting motionless on the bench across from me. He was unshaven and wearing a Santa suit, which I thought was a little out-of-season for late January. The white beard was pulled down to his neck, and he was staring at me. “Rough night?” he asked.

After a minute, I responded, “Yeah, I guess so ...” “I know *that* feeling,” he mumbled. “One day you’re on top of the world, and then the next you find yourself sitting alone near the Sunken Gardens talking to a statue of Thomas Jefferson. You call that ‘a bad day.’ I call it ‘Thursday.’ Do you hear what I’m saying, or am I talking to Lake Mataoka over here, Matthew?”

I was a little taken aback, not just by what he had said, but especially because we had never met before. I honestly didn’t know what to say. “No, I’ve been there, Gene. I’ve been there ... hurts like hell.” That seemed to calm him down a bit, and he looked up toward the stars. “You’re probably wondering what I’m doing out here, Mr. Brown,” he said, turning to me. I nodded. “Well, what with all the instances of sexual assault and such, the administration figured we better try something else for campus security.” He tapped what appeared to be a toy musket bought in Colonial Williamsburg sitting at his side.

“I could be your worst nightmare,” he continued, nodding to me. “You already are,” I thought. Nichol, alone in Matoaka woods, armed with a toy musket was hardly

the appropriate solution to the sexual assault problem we’ve been having, I decided, but I said nothing. “What’s on your mind, kid?”

I thought about it. The people. That was it. The people at the College are very lacking in diversity. The College has approximately a 16 percent minority enrollment, as compared to a nearly 30 percent minority composition in the national population. The incredibly homogenous student body is matched by a similarly uniform faculty and staff.

To be blunt, it’s hard to find non-white staff members outside of the college’s cleaning and dining services, and that is a problem. But if the College’s disproportionately white composition was the only problem, that’d be good news. Ethnic slurs, hateful jokes and self-segregation seem to be commonplace here on campus. Self-segregation is a term I like to use for the racial dynamic I’ve found on campus in which students (whites, blacks, gays, Asians, you name it) segregate themselves and then operate completely independently of one another. This phenomenon may not be strictly confined to this campus, but that shouldn’t stop us, as a community of progressive and tolerant thinkers, from doing something about it.

That was a lot to try to put into just a few words, but there sat Nichol, staring at me expectantly in his Santa suit. With the red suit and a big smile, he looked something like a jolly Saint Nick listening to some kid’s Christmas request. There were so many things I could ask for: diversity programs, College-sponsored speakers on the subject, cultural classes, College-sponsored debates or maybe just a genuine interest in making some major changes on campus. I opened my mouth, but when I turned to him, he was gone.

Then suddenly I could hear his voice, barely whispering through the trees. “You’ll figure out a way, kid ... Even though you can’t see us, we’re always watching.”

“Isn’t that a line from ‘Angels in the Outfield?’” I thought to myself.

“Just go, and Hark Upon the Gale ...” The voice faded into the dark stillness of the night. So I got up and headed home.

*Matt Brown is a sophomore at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.*

# Letter to the Editor

## College treating students like children To the Editor:

As a Christopher Wren student, I occasionally have the opportunity to pick up and read The Flat Hat.

From the perspective of a father of three university graduates and a well-traveled, retired executive with a graduate degree, I was rocked by the parochial “Police Beat” article in the Jan. 27 issue of The Flat Hat. Here are some of the transgressions: a head resident reported that he smelled marijuana smoke (horror of horrors), a student was arrested for alleged underage possession of alcohol (Heavens to Betsy!), an Area Director reported that a student was being disorderly and appeared to be intoxicated (lock that kid up), a caller complained of a loud party (perhaps the caller wasn’t invited) and an officer reported that skateboarders were trespassing (call the SWAT team).

The administration’s Victorian attitude toward alcohol, pot and disorderly behavior contrasts sharply with Kate Prengaman’s column, “Finding Humor in Sex,” which reflects a very mature, sophisticated, enlightened and light-hearted student’s approach to real social issues. How can these two attitudes be reconciled? Is the College a university or a high school?

Why would any mature, self-confident student put up with the College’s policing policies? Surely if students are old enough to drive a car, have sex, get married, make babies, possess firearms, join the military and go to war, they also have the right to be treated more maturely on campus. Universities are supposed to be dedicated to learning, thinking and debate — isn’t it time that College students confront the university’s administration to dramatically change its rigid behavior-enforcement attitude?

—Bert Wayland, Williamsburg, Va.

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This Acadian version of Captain Jack Sparrow has seen more adventure than Ahab and Columbus combined. See [THAT GIRL](#), page 9.



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

*Robert Ruffin stars and directs alongside wife Mary Wadkins in “Love Letters,” the story of two lovers and their ongoing passion for each other over the course of their lives.*

## Lasting ‘Love’ blossoms in ‘Letters’

BY ELIZABETH COLE  
THE FLAT HAT

Sickened by the thought of candy, roses and clichéd Hallmark cards? Let’s face it, the academic atmosphere on campus may not always be conducive to romance, but that’s not going to stop all those sappy dopes from driving you nuts come Valentine’s day. So rather than throwing rocks at the them and risk getting arrested, why not experience love vicariously? For such an experience you have to look no farther than the Kimball Theater’s romantic play “Love Letters.”

Playwrights Premiere Theater advertises itself as Williamsburg’s resident professional theater company. Founded by Robert Ruffin in 2003, the company’s goal

is to “bring Broadway to Virginia” and premiere new and yet-to-be recognized productions at the Kimball Theater in Colonial Williamsburg. According to their website, it is equally important to promote theatrical awareness throughout the commonwealth. The company is classified as “not-for-profit” and uses revenue to share their passion for theater.

The company’s residence at the Kimball began two years ago in September 2003 but was drastically curtailed by Hurricane Isabel’s destruction. After the hurricane’s disastrous effects, PPT raised funds and debuted its first full season of premiere stage productions in September 2005. “Love Letters” is part of this continuous season.

Ruffin and his wife, Mary Wadkins,

co-star in “Love Letters” as the two — and only — roles. The plot follows the two lovers from their first meeting in second grade and through the years as they endure life at Ivy League colleges, build careers and even experience a press scandal. Ruffin said he believes students can connect to the themes of the play.

“It’s about the choices you make young in life, particularly deciding between career and romantic choices,” he said.

Ruffin described his character as a young man vested with social responsibility, and how, when he loses sight of this responsibility, the woman he loves (played by wife Adkins) steers him back on track.

The style of the play is unique in that the entire script is actually read out loud

during the show. True to its name, “Love Letters” is performed entirely through this reading of letters that chronicle the lovers’ lifelong correspondence. The original playwright, A. R. Gurney, purposely wrote the piece in letter form because he was asked to write a production for a fundraiser in 1989. Due to lack of rehearsal time, he wrote in letter format to omit the need for actors to hurriedly memorize their lines.

Little did Gurney know that the play would turn into a smash hit and would be performed and praised globally for years to come. Akin to the company’s name, most of the PPT productions are debuts. This show is an anomaly in that it already has been performed, but its international

[See 'LOVE' + page 8](#)

## ‘Napoleon’s’ Pedro to DJ, discuss film

BY JOHN BRAME  
THE FLAT HAT

Tomorrow, Efen Ramirez, who played Pedro in the film “Napoleon Dynamite,” will be on campus to give a talk and DJ a dance party. The event, hosted by the University Center Activities Board, will begin at 9 p.m. with Ramirez’s speech in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium. Following the presentation there will be a free dance party in Lodge One at 10:30 p.m., with Ramirez DJ-ing.

In “Napoleon Dynamite,” Ramirez’s character, Pedro, is a new and somewhat clueless Mexican student at Napoleon Dynamite’s high school who quickly finds himself at the bottom of the social ladder right alongside his new nerdy friend. After being turned down by Summer, one of the most popular girls at school, Pedro decides to run against her for school president. After spreading “Vote for Pedro” posters all over lockers and getting in trouble for publicly beating a Summer-esque

piñata on school grounds, Pedro’s presidency is finally secured when Napoleon puts his crazy dance moves on display following Pedro’s rather sparse election speech.

Ramirez is expected to open his talk with clips from “Napoleon Dynamite,” then speak for about 20 minutes, leaving plenty of time for a question and answer session before the Lodge One dance party. Alicia Hummel, UCAB’s contemporary and cultural issues chair, said that Ramirez is reported to be very outgoing and thrives on interaction with students.

“I was actually studying abroad in Spain when ‘Napoleon Dynamite’ became such a cult hit, so I missed the craze. I’m really looking forward to seeing people dress up like characters from the movie and just get really into it,” Hummel said.

Trevor Rudolph, UCAB’S executive director, recalled a similar event when “Saved By the Bell”’s Mr. Belding

[See PEDRO + page 9](#)



COURTESY PHOTO • [HTTP://TVZAP2IT.COM](http://TVZAP2IT.COM)

## FASA evening celebrates spirit of togetherness



JONATHON SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

*FASA members practice a traditional wedding dance.*

BY CHARLOTTE SABALIS  
THE FLAT HAT

Tomorrow at 5:30 p.m., the Filipino American Student Association will hold their annual Cultural Night in the Commonwealth Theater of the University Center. This event, a tradition dating back eight years, is held to commemorate the Filipino holiday of Sasama Tayo, which can be translated as “Staying Together.”

“Cultural Night is a way for FASA to share our rich experiences, exploring Filipino-American culture with the entire campus community,” senior and FASA President Heather Soloria said. “We plan very hard for it every year.”

Cultural Night is FASA’s largest

event, and a way for the organization to address issues relevant to Filipinos and Filipino Americans, to teach people about Filipino culture and to expose students here at the College to authentic Filipino cuisine. This year’s Cultural Night, however, is going to be a little different from those of previous years.

“Last year’s Cultural Night focused on the Filipino aspect of being Filipino American,” FASA Cultural Night co-chair and senior Eirene Busa said. “This year we’re focusing on the dynamics found in the Filipino communities here in the United States, and the interactions between Filipinos coming over from the Philippines and the Filipinos and Filipino Americans they meet here.”

Tara Pascual, sophomore and

Busa’s co-chair, agreed.

“It’s about identifying with being Filipino,” she said. “People think that Filipinos are all the same, but it’s fragmented, with first-generation Filipino Americans, second-generation Filipino Americans, etc. We’re all closely connected by our culture.”

The story used for the program is a familiar one. This year’s production is loosely based on the movie “The Parent Trap.” Two twins, one raised in the United States and the other in the Philippines, meet and then try to reunite their estranged parents.

“Of course, this is achieved dramatically with lots of laughs, an inside look on the dynamic between

[See FASA + page 8](#)

### CONFUSION CORNER



Lauren Bell

I have a full-length mirror hanging on the back of my bedroom door. It’s pretty handy, but there is one problem: I can see myself in this mirror from both my desk and my bed. You might be thinking you know where this article is heading. It is almost Valentine’s Day, so maybe I am going to divulge to you something really juicy concerning the role of well-placed mirrors in a healthy sex life. Unfortunately for you, I grew up in western Georgia, where we are not allowed to learn about such things. Console yourself; you didn’t really want to hear about my sex life, anyway. Now maybe you can gear yourself up for a hilarious anecdote about how I happened to catch a glimpse of myself in that poor, undersexed mirror and was scared of my own ghastly reflection. Not that I want to disappoint you again, but I tend to direct my mockery at others and not at myself.

The reason that I don’t make fun of myself is the same reason that I am writing about that

mirror in the first place: I am incredibly vain. The only problem with the mirror is that I can’t stop looking at it. I’ll be sitting in my bed trying to read, and 15 minutes later I’m still on the first page because I happened to catch a glimpse of myself and was somehow intrigued. How does this happen? Look at my headshot — I’m not even that great looking, but I just can’t stop it. Confession: as I was writing those last couple of sentences, I definitely looked up from my computer just to see what my hair was doing.

I don’t think I’m alone in having this problem. I’m probably one of the worst, I’ll admit. Notice how many of my sentences start with “I.” This entire column every other week is devoted solely to myself. If I could get Charlotte to start devoting her column to me, too, I would do it. Who wouldn’t?

My guess is that a majority of people are a little obsessed with themselves. Let’s start small. Think of all the people you see checking

themselves out as they walk down the street — in car windows, in store fronts, you see them fixing their collar, trying to catch a rear view. What is that about if not a little vanity? Think of those couples you know where the guy and the girl look exactly alike, talk alike, dress alike. Isn’t that about as close as you can get to dating yourself? Think about all of those times you were supposed to be doing something actually worthwhile and instead found yourself checking out a facebook group claiming to host “the hottest people ever” I know that most of those groups are joking, but isn’t it still a little ego boost? Even if you only end up impressing your stalker by listing membership in that group, it somehow makes you feel like you actually are “the hottest people ever” and I know you secretly like it. Pretty much everyone is a big “me” fan.

I appreciate those who can revel in the awesomeness that is the self. It’s incredibly

ridiculous, for one thing. In small doses, it’s also probably good for them. In larger doses, people might start to find it annoying and alienating, but it makes me feel like less of a bad person for looking in the mirror every three minutes. In a society so based on appearance and individuality, you’re almost the odd one if you’re not focused on yourself. That kind of social training may be wrong and completely missing the point, but it’s also a real force to consider. If you want to fight that force, I support you. If you want to love yourself no matter what the mirror says, I support you. If you think I’m a self-obsessed jerk, I don’t support you, but I do kind of agree. If you want to break every mirror in the world and say “damn the man” loud and clear, I support you. But for the sake of all that is good and holy, don’t break mine.

*Lauren Bell is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. She thinks her shit don’t stink.*



## Variety Calendar

### Highlights of the week

— compiled by jeff dooley

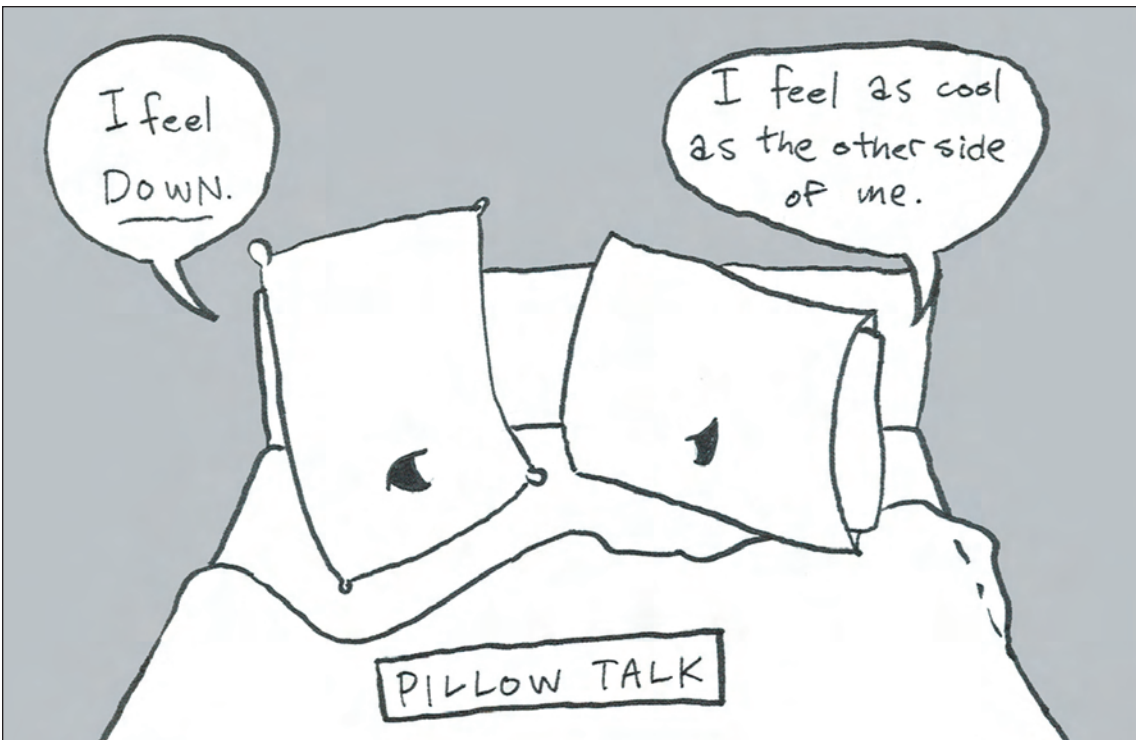
### Civil Rights lecture

♦ Dr. Terry Roberts, one of the members of the Little Rock Nine, the group of African-American students who broke down the racial barrier at Little Rock High School in 1957, will speak in the Andrews Hall Auditorium February 13. The lecture is free and begins at 7 p.m.

To have an event printed in the Variety Calendar, call x3281 before 5 p.m. Tuesday.

### Area concerts

♦ If you're looking for a break from your usual routine, there are some great concerts this week within driving distance that you might want to check out. tomorrow, the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. hosts Super Diamond: The Neil Diamond Experience, with the Fabulettes. Doors open at 8 p.m. All remaining members of the Wu Tang Clan perform at the Sonar nightclub in Baltimore, MD. Sunday night. Doors open at 8 p.m. If Baltimore is too much of a drive for you, don't worry, because they are playing two shows the very next night at the 9:30 Club, the first opening at 7 p.m. and the second at 10 p.m. Emo rockers The Academy Is ... and Panic! At the Disco play the 9:30 Club with Acceptance and Hellogoodbye Sunday evening. Doors open at 5 p.m. You can catch this same show just two nights later a little bit closer to the 'Burg, as they play the NorVa nightclub in Norfolk, Va. Valentine's Day. Doors open at 6 p.m.



Hulabaloo

By Nate Loehrke

## Horoscopes



**Aquarius:** Jan. 20 - Feb. 18  
OK, so last week wasn't your best. But it's in the past. Valentine's Day should help lift spirits. Or not. How should I know?



**Pisces:** Feb. 19 - March 20  
It's almost Valentine's Day, Pisces, and you know what that means. It's time to show them which sign is the most romantic of them all.



**Aries:** March 21 - April 19  
Feb. 14 can be a back-breaker for the old wallet, so be sure to save by doing things like buying candy before you get to the theater. Pure genius.



**Taurus:** April 20 - May 20  
If you're looking for a romantic on-campus location this Valentine's Day, try to avoid the dumpsters behind the Caf. They're trashy.



**Gemini:** May 21 - June 21  
Speaking of romantic on-campus locations, avoid that bog thing in-between new campus and the University Center. What's the deal with that, anyway?



**Cancer:** June 22 - July 22  
Speaking of the bog, if your Valentine isn't treating you right, that's a great place to throw his/her various belongings. The bog swallows things whole.



**Leo:** July 23 - Aug. 22  
Cupid costumes are a bad idea for everyone. Cupid never gets any for himself. Unless the gods all have sex with each other ... which they do.



**Virgo:** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22  
Nothing says "I love you" like a Wawa chicken sandwich. Especially if you have to wait in line with all the riff-raff. That's commitment.



**Libra:** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22  
Say what you will about George W. Bush's economic policy, but \$5 still buys you a heck of a lot of Lizzie McGuire Valentine's cards.



**Scorpio:** Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Scorpio's Valentine's Day secret: Smell nice. If you're a dude, pick up some BOD body spray. Ladies, it's all about Curious by Britney Spears.



**Sagittarius:** Nov. 22 - Dec. 21  
Now, Sagittarius, I know the whole bow and arrow thing is going to invite Cupid comparisons, but avoid these like the plague. See Leo.



**Capricorn:** Dec. 22 - Jan. 19  
Looking for the right music to get your special someone in the mood? Bust out the William Shatner album. The man knows how to get the blood flowing.

..... compiled by jeff dooley .....

## FASA

FROM PAGE 7

Filipinos and Filipino-Americans and, of course, cultural dances," Soloria said.

This year's Cultural Night will have more musical performances and more traditional dances than in previous years. In addition, it will also feature skits, comedy and elements of romance.

"It's more light-hearted than last year," Pascual said, "We're still touching on the issues, but also showing the positive aspects."

Pascual and Busa said that the program was inspired by the FASA members and their families, and their experiences of culture shock in coming to and living in the United States. Pascual discussed some differences Filipinos coming would see between the United States

and their home country.

"There are a lot more opportunities," she said, "but there are other differences, like children aren't as respectful to their elders."

Busa added to Pascual's comment by noting that people in FASA all have different experiences.

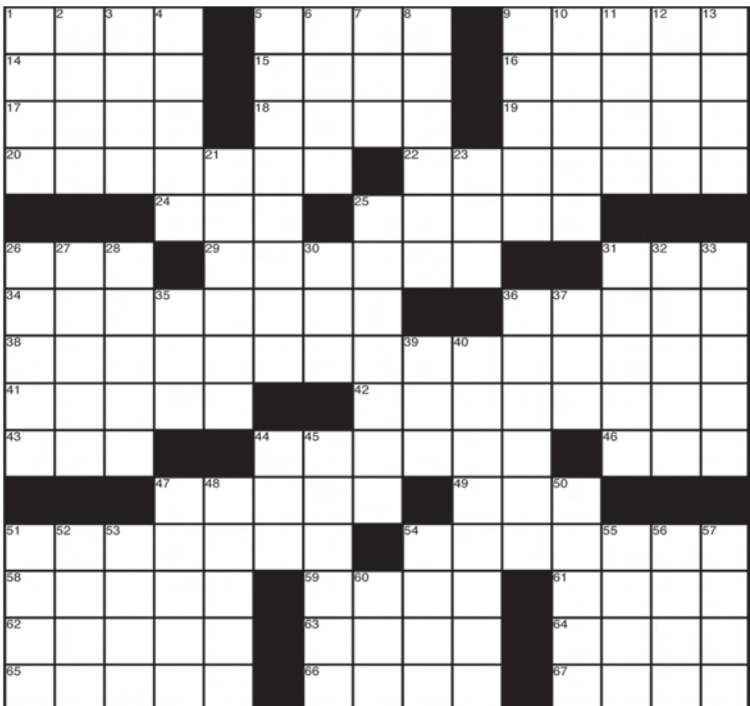
"They all have something to contribute, a story to share. It all comes together," she said.

Busa also described how FASA members themselves learned more about Filipino culture, as they made traditional Filipino dishes for the dinner and learned about their history.

"Each of the members working on the show has put a lot of passion, not to mention precious time and energy, into the preparations for the performance this Saturday," said Soloria. "It definitely shows."

Tickets are available at the UC tables for \$8, and will be available at the door for \$10.

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- Bringing up the rear
- Message on a work order
- Bars for guitars
- Jai \_\_\_\_
- Proven
- Like acacia leaves
- Left on a map
- Cannabis
- Premarathon food
- # 1 ("Hogan's Heroes")
- # 2 (old radio/TV serials)
- Word said with a salute
- Burden carrier
- Woodstock supply
- Tablecloths and such
- Month before juin
- Alert
- People who aren't what they seem
- Theme of this puzzle
- Beat the pants off
- Onetime Asian Communists
- Flunky's response
- Descendants
- Fannie \_\_\_\_
- More than partial
- Catchall abbr.
- # 3 ("Sands of Iwo Jima")
- # 4 ("F Troop")
- Jewels site
- "Cheerio!"
- Pioneer talk show host
- Ambassador's inferior
- Pianist Gilels
- Twosome
- Leaves in a hot rod, with "out"
- Antarctic explorer Sir James
- Paris's Avenue \_\_\_\_ République

### DOWN

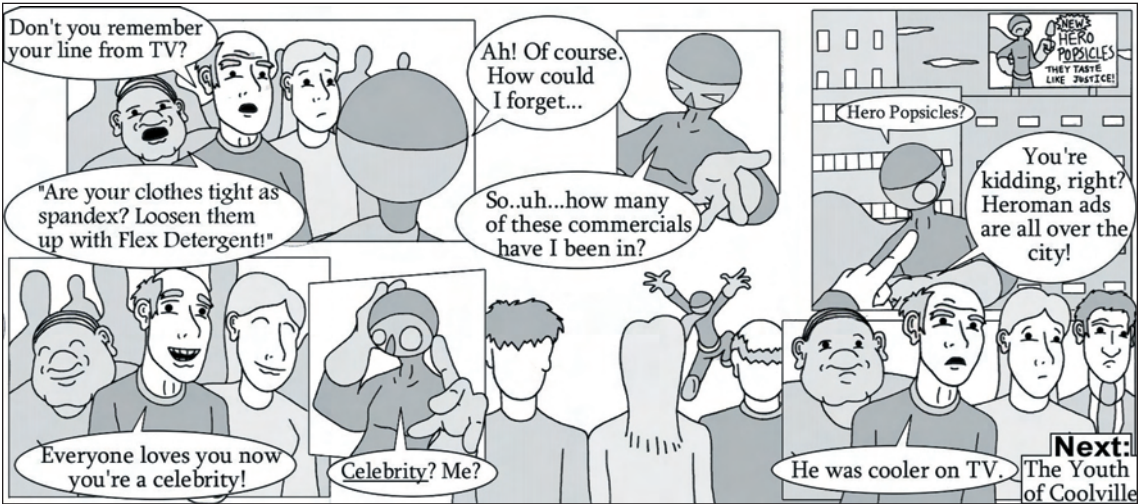
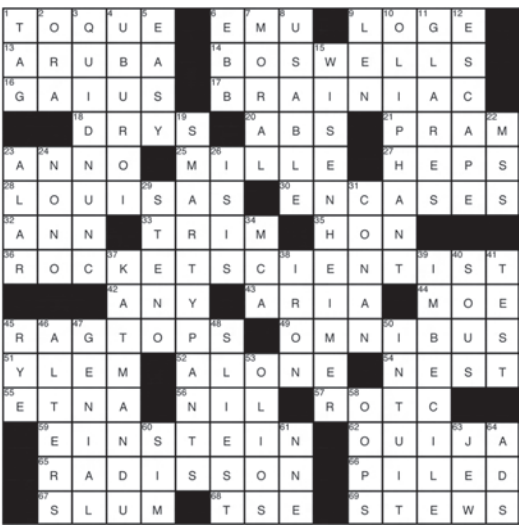
- Parts of a code
- Smart-\_\_\_\_
- Medals locale
- Book before Philemon
- Smoke shop stock
- Egyptian port
- Tentacle
- # 5 (Beatles album)
- Handles hardship
- "Halt!" to a salt
- Kind of tense
- "Beetle Bailey" dog
- O'Casey or O'Faoláin
- Order on the court
- Bit of hope
- Plague
- Like some goals
- Flat replacement
- Audition tapes
- Foot, to Flavius
- About one drop
- Prudential rival
- 1979 hit "\_\_\_\_ Really Going Out With Him?"
- Passeport info
- Begins, as work
- Popular cooking spray
- Orinoco, e.g.
- Battle stars
- \_\_\_\_ Anne de Beaupré
- # 6 ("Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.")
- Its capital is Innsbruck
- Rubber-stamps
- Amorous

archer

- Exercise routine bit
- Pitchfork prong
- 90's party
- Name that has its ups and downs
- Part of A.P.R.
- Film critic Pauline
- Humorist Bombeck
- Latin series starter

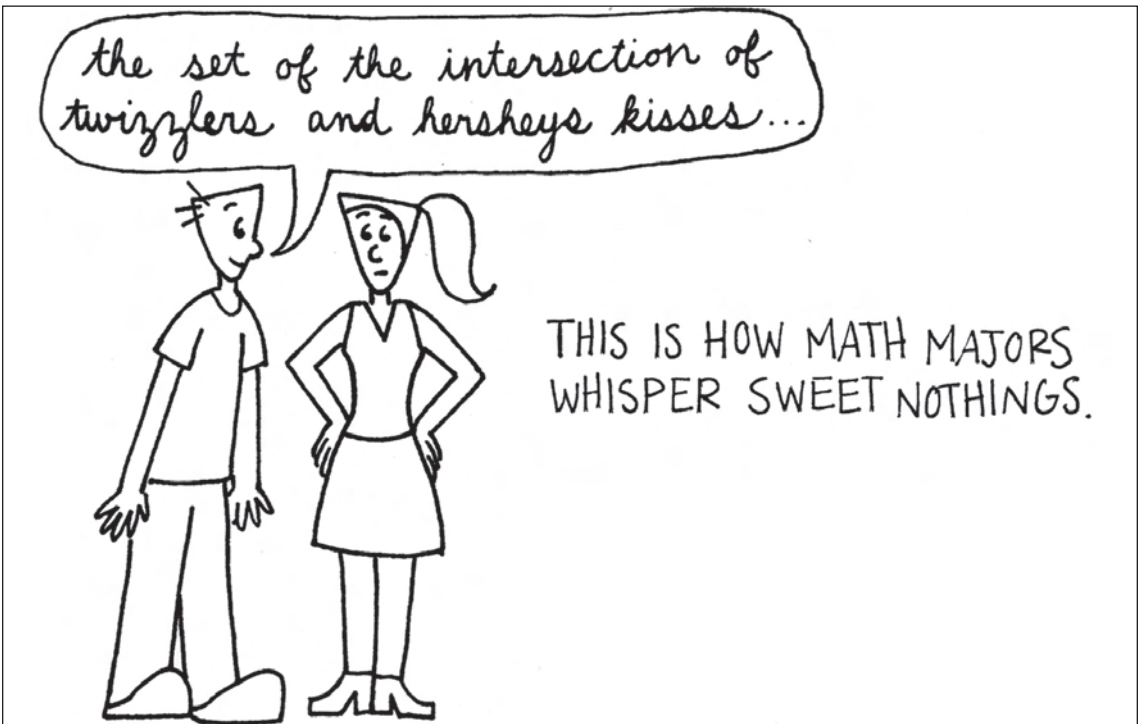
Source: The New York Times

### Last Week's Solution



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner



Knowing Jack

By Mika G.Shannon

## 'Love'

FROM PAGE 7

praise deemed it worthy of repeat performances.

"Love Letters" aided rehearsal time for Ruffin, just as it did for Gurney years ago.

He said he typically spends four to five weeks in rehearsals for a show, practicing two days a week and eight hours each day. For this particular show, however,

he said two weeks of rehearsals sufficed.

Audience reactions have indicated the successful romanticism of the play.

Ruffin describes looking out into the audience and "seeing men with tears streaming down their faces" from the poignant and extremely romantic plot.

"Love Letters" will be playing at the Kimball, located on DoG Street in Colonial Williamsburg, February 9 to 14. So put bitterness aside and at least try to have fun this Valentine's day.





# That Girl: Lindsay Prescott

By Tegan Neustatter  
Flat Hat Staff Writer

It may not be “The Perfect Storm,” but replace the Atlantic Ocean with the Chickahominy River and Lindsay Prescott can say that she’s been through a boating experience that would rival George Clooney’s. Sure, this Maine native has done many other things that warrant her nomination as That Girl (such as being an assistant new member educator and alcohol educator for Chi Omega sorority), but in the interest of space, her freshman year crew team adventure is guaranteed to bowl you over.

**I’ll cut to the chase. Tell us about the horrific crew accident that you were involved in a couple years ago.**

I was on the varsity crew team second semester of my freshman year. We were out [on the water]; and it was nice out. We were mid-stroke when all of a sudden our paddles just stopped. A squall came out of nowhere and we couldn’t row because the wind got so strong. Within 10 seconds we had big waves splashing over our boat.

By the time we were turned around we were already underwater. We had an eight [seater] and a four [seater], and the coaches were in another small boat. Our boat had capsized and we were all holding onto it. The coaches went over to the men’s four and got a couple of guys and a couple of girls and took them to shore and dropped off some lifejackets for the guys. None of us [who were in the water] had lifejackets.

They said the water was 52 degrees that day. It ended up taking about half an hour for the coaches to get to shore, and then they couldn’t find us in the water. The coaches finally made it back to us, but they struggled because the waves were so big. Then [the coaches’] boat capsized, and we lost the engine. We all watched the rest of the lifejackets float down the river.

We had already started to huddle together to keep each other warm. We eventually decided that what we need to do is get into the skiff that both of the instructors were in that had capsized. We righted it, but it was still swamped. We put the people who were starting to lose consciousness in the boat and pushed [the boat] to shore.

We were in the water for about an hour and a half. That’s about how long we had to live. And we didn’t know where the boys were. This was hours and hours into it. We finally made it to shore, but people were in and out of consciousness. We had the whole buddy system going where you had to keep

asking everybody questions to make sure they were still conscious.

What saved us really, because it was so windy and freezing, was a little shack that we found out in the middle of nowhere. It had tarps to wrap ourselves in, I found one of those big lighters, and we found flares and whistles. I was so cold that I couldn’t even gather firewood because I didn’t have enough muscle control at that point. But we built a fire so we could use that as a signal, and we dried all our clothes. Across the river we saw some headlights, so we could tell that they were looking for us.

We tried to signal them with our flares. We also saw helicopters flying overhead looking for us. Apparently they had also sent out scuba divers and search dogs because they thought there was a good chance that we had all died. They sent the Coast Guard, and they came and picked us up in a boat. We all had to be checked out individually in an ambulance. Everyone made it. It was an interesting way to start off my college career.

**Amazing. But what were you thinking when you were clinging to this boat? What was running through your mind?**

For me it was mostly trying to make sure everyone else was calm. I had had this experience before; I’ve been lost in fog on my own before. Everyone was like, “Ha! We’re in water,” but I started thinking, “It’s 52 degrees, and we’re cold, and we don’t have anything.” Basically I was thinking about how we were going to survive this without letting other people know how serious it was.

**Did this experience affect you afterwards? Were you afraid to go back in the water?**

We weren’t supposed to go to classes for a week after that, so we were actually out of school a little bit. I never thought it was going to affect me that much. I called my parents, and they told me that after I hung up they broke down and cried because they realized that that could have been a really bad phone call. The day after the accident I woke up and I was in my dorm, and I remember trying to brush my hair. My whole body started trembling so badly that I couldn’t brush my hair. That’s when I realized that all that adrenaline and everything had built up. I had no idea how tired I was.

We slowly worked back into having practices. The coaches were good about making us go back on the water soon so our fear wouldn’t build up. We were definitely in a couple of windy practices that week and a splash of water all of a sudden seemed like a big deal. Luckily I’ve grown up on the water, so it would never keep me away.

# Single’s pleasure on V-day

For Valentine’s Day last year, I wrote about love, and the year before, about some alternative ways to show your love; frankly, I’m getting a little tired of talking about love at this time of year.

## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Kate  
Prengaman

So this Valentine’s Day, I’m going to feel confident that loving relationships are out there celebrating themselves as they should be every day, regardless of how I use my 800 words. Plus, they’re all too busy with romance this weekend to even read the paper, so I’m going to devote this Valentine’s Day to the reasons to celebrate being single. Sacrilegious, you say? We’re doing it anyway.

The first obvious reason it’s excellent to be single, especially this time of year, is that you don’t have to spend any of your hard earned money on all the awkwardly sentimental crap that is filling up store shelves. Not to mention, February 14th clearly isn’t the only day that mandates significant other presents; there are anniversaries, Christmas, birthdays and, “shit, I’m in trouble, I have to do something nice so they’ll forgive me” spending. So, if you’re really feeling down about your lack of date this week, estimate your savings and go buy a really hot outfit to wear out this weekend.

Going out when you’re single can also be more exciting. You never really know how your night is going to turn out, who you are going to talk to, flirt with or go home with. You’re all set to expect the unexpected. Life’s more of an adventure. The rush of flirting with someone new, or even someone you’ve been flirting with for the past few nights, is great. And there’s just something about the first time you kiss somebody that’s exciting. Single-ness gives you the opportunity to express your sexuality, on whatever level you’re comfortable, be it by bringing a different guy home every night or getting a goodnight kiss after the first date with the cute girl from your geology class.

You’ve got more time to spend with your friends, too. Every night can be a girls’ (or guys’) night out. Relationships take time, and it has to come from somewhere, be it your studying, your job, your club or sports team or your friends. When you’re single, all your time is yours to spend doing what makes you happy.

Maybe one of the best benefits of single-ness is



the independence. Not only do you not have to argue about whether you are going to watch football or “Desperate Housewives,” but all the more important decisions are yours too. Should you take a summer internship in Alaska, or study abroad or really devote yourself to getting into med school with several nights of Kaplan classes? Especially when it comes to the really big decisions, such as where your life is taking you after graduation, love can really complicate things. Love involves making sacrifices sometimes, giving up self-interested decision making for deciding what is best for the couple. In a perfect world, you would never have to decide between your dream job in California and your dream girlfriend in grad school in D.C. But clearly, we don’t live in that world, and those kinds of conflicts happen all the time. Being single and independent gives you the ability to really put yourself and your future first.

Not only does being single give you independence in your decision making, it makes you independent in your happiness. Now, some people find that a scary thought, but one of the best parts of being single is knowing, confidently, that you can be happy without a significant other in your life. You know that you aren’t emotionally dependant on anyone else, so that if, someday, someone special does show up in your life, they are an extra credit to your happiness, not a pre-requisite.

Lastly — and don’t let your in-relationship friends read this one — one of the best parts of any relationship is the beginning. The falling part of being in love, discovering a new person and thinking about them all the time. Once you’re in a relationship, you’ve already passed that stage. However, when you’re single, you can know that falling for someone is somewhere in your future. Near or far, it’s hard to predict, but you can look forward to the most exciting part of a relationship, instead of remembering it.

So, enjoy being single this Valentine’s Day. You can still celebrate love, for your family, your friends, your past, your future and most importantly, yourself. Love doesn’t get any more important than that.

*Kate Prengaman is The Flat Hat sex-columnist. She plans on showing her love by baking herself a chocolate cake on Valentine’s Day. Without any annoying boyfriends to steal it from her, she will get to have her cake and eat it, too.*

## PEDRO

FROM PAGE 7

came to campus, and many students came dressed as their favorite “Saved By the Bell” personalities.

UCAB representatives pointed out that this is not just any actor from any movie coming to speak and entertain students. As Alicia Hummel pointed out, “Napoleon Dynamite” has become something of a cult classic for our age group. Also, Ramirez was born in 1983, making him about the same age as the students themselves, a rare quality among the speakers who come to campus. UCAB members said they hope that this will allow students to identify more with Ramirez.

Trina Chakraborty, UCAB’s director of public relations, emphasized that UCAB aimed to give students a diverse selection of entertainment choices, ranging from very serious to more lighthearted. For example, UCAB brought the man who inspired the movie “Hotel

Rwanda,” Paul Rusesabagina, to speak on campus Jan 23.

“It’s exciting to see students get psyched about diverse programming. It’s great that we can fill PBK for a speaker like Paul Rusesabagina and then also fill Commonwealth with a speaker like Pedro,” Chakraborty said.

Ramirez has acted in other movies besides “Napoleon Dynamite.” According to imdb.com, Ramirez was part of the movie “Kazaam,” and has appeared on numerous television shows including “Boston Public,” and “ER.”

Even local businesses are anticipating the arrival of Pedro.

“I’ll try to make sure I have some [Vote for Pedro shirts] in the window,” Campus Shop manager Steve Hugh said, according to The Daily Press.

“Napoleon Dynamite,” with its nerdy heroism, has become a pop culture phenomenon; UCAB members said they hope this will stoke students’ enthusiasm for this event.

## PERU

FROM PAGE 7

from Pontificio Universidad Catolica de Peru talking about measures taken to begin and continue the process of healing in the country.

“Professor [Augusto] Castro, who’s the sociology chair in the social sciences department at Pontificio, is coming to talk about processes of reconciliation after the formation of the Commission of Truth and Reconciliation,” Sertzen said.

Over the span of two years, this commission traveled around Peru collecting accounts and

testimonies from victims.

“They wrote up a huge report about the all the situations and victims they encountered,” Sertzen said.

The commission reported not only on deaths, but also on social victims of the conflict (mostly stranded women and children) who were left without jobs or other means of providing for themselves.

In addition to Castro, the conference will also feature two other speakers: Jose Luis Incio, member of Asociacion SOLAC, and Ximena Castro, who represents Sembrando Memoria, an organization that visits elementary and high schools in

Peru, educating students so these crimes against humanity are not forgotten.

For Sertzen, it is important that awareness is raised among students through this conference.

“I want people to walk out [of the conference] and know that this kind of violence goes on all the time,” she said. “One of the things that shocked me about 9/11 was that people were in such shock, saying ‘this can’t be happening to us’ without realizing that it happens all the time all over the world, and no one really pays attention to it.”

The conference will run Feb. 13 to 18, and the photo exhibit will continue until Feb 28.

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**Coaches are needed!**

Coach the Spring Season Coed Youth Soccer League. The League is for boys and girls K through 9th grades. Practices are one night a week, from 5:30PM till 6:30PM. Games are on Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm for Nine weeks starting Saturday March 11th, thru Saturday, May 6th. Kindergarten teams play and practice on Saturday only. Please call Nick Alsop at 259-5355.

**Weekend Service Trip**

OSVS will be running a February trip to Alexandria. Volunteers will be working at a food bank. The trip will run Feb 24-25. All volunteers are welcome to come, especially those interested in addressing hunger issues. E-mail [cltuff@wm.edu](mailto:cltuff@wm.edu) if interested.



# REVIEWS



Brokeback ‘Batman’?  
See Gossip, page 13.

## KILEY EN VOGUE



COURTESY PHOTO • RILOKILEY.NET

FROM LEFT: Pierre de Reeder, Jenny Lewis, Jason Boesel and Blake Sennett make up the indie quartet Rilo Kiley, who recently toured with Coldplay after the success of their 2004 album “More Adventurous.” Lewis and Sennett both released CDs with their side projects Jan. 31.



COURTESY PHOTO • BURNETT/EPIC

## INXS FLIP ‘SWITCH’ ON LATEST EP

BY NATE HIPPLE  
THE FLAT HAT

Remember the television program “Rockstar: INXS”? Do you remember how at the end they picked a new lead singer for the band? If your mind has repressed these memories and cannot get over the fact that INXS is moving beyond Michael Hutchence, “Switch” is not the CD for you. That said, for anyone else, this is an incredibly rewarding release, with the exception of a few minor shortcomings.

Since this is the first post-Hutchence release, the band suffers from all of the ills that come with such a change. INXS has recorded albums with Hutchence since the 1980s, so their fans are going to have to re-adjust. INXS does their best to ease this transition by fitting new lead singer, J.D. Fortune (a Canadian Elvis impersonator), into the Hutchence mold. This works at times, but at others, Fortune sounds out of place.

That isn’t to say that this album is a rehash of the previous INXS efforts with a new lead singer. In fact, Fortune brings a lot to the group, giving it a harder edge and more bite than they’ve had in quite some time. Detractors will claim that Fortune’s vocal range keeps him from becoming the front man Hutchence was. His snarling vocals, however, are gruffer and more true to the band’s Australian pub roots.

Even if Fortune doesn’t have a Hutchence-esque set of pipes, he makes an excellent addition to the group. Just his presence has revitalized the band. Prior to Fortune, INXS was nothing but a couple of instruments accompanying a strutting front man. Now, they sound like a band. They’re taking the first few steps on their journey back to hard rock glory — Fortune and his new sound suit them perfectly.

Unfortunately, since INXS is trying not to alienate all of their fans in one sitting, they’re fighting this process rather than embracing it. It’s a lot for old fans to swallow that Hutchence is gone and that this isn’t the same band it was before. To appease them, INXS has a number of songs that try to recapture their old sound and, ultimately, these are the weakest tracks on the album. The old die-hards will never come to accept J.D. Fortune, so at this point it’s little use to play to them. INXS needs to move forward.

Songs like “Pretty Vegas” and the embarrassingly cliché “Hot Girls” show this movement forward. These songs are not particularly deep and don’t really cover any new ground. They do, however, rock out. Is the coquettish Japanese recited during “Hot Girls” cringe-worthy? Yes, but it’s rock ‘n’ roll. This is not a CD for people who are looking for the next frontier in this genre. This is a CD for people who want to turn the volume up and just let loose.

It’s only appropriate that a time-tested band would be the one to try to revitalize the overly dramatic rock genre, but it is slightly ironic that it is INXS. INXS has always been a band to try to combine every element in popular music in an effort to appeal to everyone. While there are still traces of that tendency, it is strongly executed and does not detract from the otherwise pure spirit of the album.

This pure, unfettered rock ‘n’ roll spirit still comprises the essence of this album. This is a CD that plays to its strengths and lets loose. They offer no apologies for their kind of music in this day and age, and it’s a breath of fresh air. When every artist is trying to be the next new thing, it’s refreshing to see a band content to just play straightforward rock. Hybrid

See INXS + page 13

## Rilo Kiley show off different side (projects)

◆ *Subtle sheen of ‘Rabbit Fur Coat’ shines on Lewis’s solo debut*

BY CONOR MCKAY  
THE FLAT HAT

In the heyday of The Smashing Pumpkins, their beautiful bassist Melissa Auf der Maur lived in the dreams of every pimply-faced teenage boy across this great nation. So, of course, after the band split, guess who struck out on her own to capitalize on those broken dreams? Let’s just say I’m \$20 in the hole and left with a “xMAdMx” signature on the CD jacket of an absolutely horrid LP. Regrets? Not a lick. However, such an experience made me skeptical when picking up the new Jenny Lewis solo album, “Rabbit Fur Coat.”

See LEWIS + page 13



COURTESY PHOTO • TEAM LOVE RECORDS

◆ *The Elected return with rock solid second term*

BY KYLE MEIKLE  
FLAT HAT REVIEWS EDITOR

Rilo Kiley have always been a little bit (more) country and a little bit (less) rock ‘n’ roll than their average fan might admit. “Take Offs and Landings” (2001) features the stirrup-stirring “Plane Crash in C,” as well as the lone ranger undertones of “Small Figures in a Vast Expanse”; the knee slapping, rabble-rousing “The Good That Won’t Come Out” and “Hail To Whatever You Found In The Sunlight That Surrounds You” are two of the strongest tracks on 2002’s “The Execution of All Things.”

See ELECTED + page 13



COURTESY PHOTO • SUB POP

## ‘Corrections’ provides for delightfully dysfunctional family dinner

### TALES OF OBSESSION



Tristan Lejeune

When I first starting writing for this paper, waaay back in the fall of ‘02, I fell hard for the Tales of Obsession column. For someone as vocal in love and hate as I, the chance to vent for 700 words on an object d’adoration was almost too good to be true. “You mean I get to gush about ‘Clone High’... with no pretense of practical value? Awesome.” Since then I’ve written a few ToO (a good one about “The Sopranos” here, a lousy one about Joseph Arthur there) and enjoyed many more — passionate affection is contagious (or so I hope). There may be one on Jeff Buckley in me yet ...

But today we’re going to attempt something a little different. The typical ToO is about an artist or artwork that moves through time: a director, a TV show, a band. I’ve never read and, before today, never written one about a solitary novel, nor can I think of a book more deserving than Jonathan Franzen’s “The Corrections.”

Among the more name-droppably excellent authors to grace “The Times” or “Entertainment Weekly”’s best-of lists in recent years (your

Smiths and your Sedari), Franzen, like his novel, is monumental. Not just because it is far and away his best work (two inferior novels and a mound of inconsistent essays set it apart), not just because he was the one who had the guts to turn down Oprah’s book club (bet you wish you’d thought of that, James Frey) and went on to win the National Book Award, but because his is bar-“Staggering Genius”—none the best American book of the new millennium. When I loaned my first edition to my friend Trevor, he was “forced” to use its 568 page bulk as a pillow in a European hostel. I was livid at the damage, but now I like the idea of resting one’s head on such lofty prose. I was also calmed when Brice gave me another copy. Both Trevor and Brice, speaking of, loved it.

No one needs Norman Mailer to tell them the Great American Novel is a tired, bloodless dinosaur. Fortunately, Franzen has instead crafted a Stupendous American Novel, covering centennial subjects from fine cuisine and travel to investment banking and higher education to

the death of the U.S. railway system and the scary frontiers of modern science. Its principal theme, however, is the chasm of the modern American family.

In the final movement (“One Last Christmas”) of Franzen’s Midwestern symphony, an elderly, middle-class couple, Enid and Alfred Lambert, sit at their table with their three adult children. Chip, in scenes that should be required reading for all English and LCST majors, has thrown away a promising professorship for a brief, disastrous affair with a student. Gary, for masochistic reasons all his own, can’t wait to get back to a vertiginous domestic hell in which the depression is very real and the paranoia is (at least half) well-founded. Denise (try not to let her break your heart, just try) is smoking again, as if it will heal her capsized love life or hide the hideous fault-ridden past crashing at her ears. At least two pairs of these people have absolutely no love for each other; this is the funniest depressing book ever written.

A film version of “The Corrections” is due

out in 2007, and man is it going to suck. Certain novels (like, say ... “Lolita”) could never make good movies because they leap too quickly from cavernous temporal discussion to un-improvable house-of-cards set pieces (Franzen’s “dinner of revenge” is horrifying when you read it, then more so when you remember eating it). “The Corrections” is one of those novels. Anything taken away diminishes the whole and its interior life is invisible to cameras, specifically because the tragedy of the Lamberts is how foreign they are to each other. The yearning, misery and forgiveness of those five people looking down at their Christmas plates is so crushingly unknown to each other, so generously revealed to the reader and the reader alone. Doesn’t help that Robert Zemeckis is slated to direct, either. “You could feel it: something terrible was going to happen,” warns Franzen on his first page. If there’s a breath of life in you, read this book. Just don’t tell the fam ...

Tristan Lejeune is a Flat Hat staff writer. Next, he’ll explain what “gerontocratic” means.





**SINGLED OUT**  
**Yeah Yeah Yeahs — “Gold Lion”**  
**From their forthcoming *Show Your Bones* LP**

“Lion” roars like “I Love Rock ‘n’ Roll” filtered through a bong rip, with Karen O singing “take our hands out of control” over simple acoustic strums and a clap-clap-stomp backbeat. Only a minute into the song, she’s already inviting harder riffs with her wailing oh-ohs, turning “Gold.” white hot.  
— *compiled by kyle meikle*

**WCWM TOP 10 ALBUMS**

1. *Lookaftering* — **Vashti Bunyan**
2. *Singles And Sessions 1979-1981* — **Delta 5**
3. *The Greatest* — **Cat Power**
4. *Rabbit Fur Coat* — **Jenny Lewis and the Watson Twins**
5. *The Brave and the Bold* — **Tortoise and Bonnie ‘Prince’ Billy**
6. *Thunder, Lightning, Strike* — **Go! Team**
7. *Kicking Television: Live In Chicago* — **Wilco**
8. *Feels* — **Animal Collective**
9. *The Campfire Headphase* — **Boards of Canada**
10. *Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* — **Clap Your Hands Say Yeah**

**LEWIS**

FROM PAGE 12

This one’s different though. This beauty has talent.  
Of course, you have to look at the history of it. The Smashing Pumpkins’ success had nothing to do with Melissa’s ability to slap a few strings. Rilo Kiley, however, thrived behind Lewis’ beautiful alto and knack for songwriting. The band’s success grew with each album as

the band became more and more comfortable handing the reigns over to Lewis. If you listen to the band’s first album, “Takeoffs and Landings,” Blake Sennett gets just as much time at the mic as Jenny does. With both of their next two albums, Jenny took front and center more and more, until she was practically the heart and soul of the band. This is why she struck out on her own — not because she’s beautiful. There is, however, something everyone should note: Rilo Kiley

was becoming the Jenny Lewis Show, but this is not a Rilo Kiley album. In fact, this album is closer to that of a country crooner than it is to anything that might come from an indie band. The bluegrass and soul of “Rabbit Fur Coat” will appeal more to fans of Loretta Lynn and Neko Case than it will to fans of Rilo Kiley’s indie Americana. Don’t be scared though, that does not in any way mean that this is a bad album. In fact, I contend that this album is just as good as anything

Rilo Kiley ever did. Lewis is so very gifted at grabbing your attention and heart with her voice and smile that this album could be as simple as her singing a cappella, and it would find regular play in many a head. There is a certain level of inconsistency in Rilo Kiley’s highly touted second album, “The Execution of All Things.” Some songs, such as “Spectacular Views,” are absolutely wonderful and display Lewis and Rilo Kiley’s ability to go from soft and reserved to loud and forward

seamlessly, but others clearly miss. That inconsistency is far less evident on “Rabbit Fur Coat.” Sure, Lewis still has hit or miss lyrics like she always has, but her voice shines through, and the backing harmonies of the Watson Twins make the quality of the words irrelevant. This is not to say Lewis can’t write a song, but it’s to say that her inconsistent songwriting, which kept Rilo Kiley from ever making an all around great album, doesn’t get in the way. So Melissa Auf der Maur still

holds my heart and my \$20; Jenny Lewis holds neither. This has nothing to do with the quality of their music, it has to do with the naivety of a starstruck boy who grew up in the ’90s. Boys who have grown up in the ’00s are much luckier than I. They have a beautiful female indie icon to oogle over who actually has talent. With soulful renderings such as “Rise Up With Fists,” “Rabbit Fur Coat” is a feel good album, and Jenny Lewis hit it right on. Just don’t expect it to sound indie.

**ELECTED**

FROM PAGE 12

Sure, they’re all dressed up (or down) in the low-fi blips and Casio clips that overran the band’s “Initial Friend EP,” but you can practically hear Jenny Lewis drooping her head and kicking the dirt, thumbs firmly in belt-loops, on half of the band’s repertoire.  
2004’s “More Adventurous” was just that: an attempt, at least in part, that favored turning the pop-rock rumblings of “My Slumbering Heart” and “Execution”’s title track into the radio-ready rollick of “Portions for Foxes” and “Does He Love You?” over country crooning. The electro-lament of “Accidntel Deth,” meanwhile, echoed Jenny’s stint with the Postal Service, while “I Never” and “It Just Is” dabbled in doo-wop and swaying ’70s soul, respectively.  
So on the eve of the inevitable major-label debut (Warner Brothers), after the even more inevitable inclusion of a Kiley song in an “O.C.” ep (back when Marissa was still gay), the band took the next logical step any band would take: they shied away from Rilo in favor of focusing on smaller, individual side projects. While Lewis went to work on what would eventually become “Rabbit Fur Coat” (see review, page 12), Rilo’s other half —famed “Salute Your Shorts” alum and lately mustachioed Blake Sennett — returned to his ragtag band of (musical) brothers, the Elected.  
Both Lewis’s “Rabbit” and the Elected’s “Sun, Sun, Sun” (their follow-up to the winking-ly titled “Me First” LP) feel like tumbleweeds rolling along the same barren alt-country landscape — O Uncle Tupelo, where art thou? But if you imagine the pair on opposite ends of the campfire, Jenny’s the one whispering over a frail acoustic strum while Blake clamors for a washboard, a jug and whatever brass instruments he can possibly get his hands on. Part of the instrumental impulse on the Elected’s part is due to the fact that Sennett’s voice isn’t nearly

as compelling as Lewis’s whisper-to-a-wail, which sounds strong even when it should be falling apart (see: “Somebody Else’s Clothes,” “Paint’s Peeling”). Blake’s best Kiley kicks are those bolstered by brassy backings (see: “Three Hopeful Thoughts”).  
“Sun” is nothing if not brassy — in the first four tracks alone it builds from the deceptively simple, banjo-laced intro of “Clouds Parting (8:14 a.m.),” through the mid-tempo ditties “Would You Come With Me” and “Fireflies In A Steel Mill” to the Godzilla stomp and rigorous reverb of “Not Going Home.” The chorus — a fist-pumping repetition of “I am not going home” supplemented by “when I look at you, I am there”s and “I don’t fucking cares” — carries you to a late song breakdown (“oh my god”) before hitting its hubristic homestretch.  
Only “Biggest Star” stretches the hubris of “Home” even further, offering seven minutes of sheer swagger, from Sennett shouting “Honey, I can’t lose” after an extended sax solo to the epic, instrumental “Only In Dreams” freak-out at the song’s end. Sennett buries the song’s dusty barstool licks under a sea of dueling guitars, jangling piano and dreamy electro-pipe; nothing else on “Sun” shines quite so brightly.  
That’s not to say that Sennett’s quieter efforts — the title track, as well as “Beautiful Rainbow” and “Desiree” — are completely underwhelming, simply that they seem in some way unfinished. Far more successful are the compromises between Sennett’s just-an-honest-guy testimonials and his quirky instrumentation: the soulful “I’ll Be Your Man” or the sad, steel guitar infused “It Was Love.” Who could resist the charm of a line like: “We had some love, and some hope / A full tank of gas and a wide-open road / It was love to us, it was all that we had,” especially with a melancholic accordion sighing in the background?  
“Sun” is more ’70s country rock tribute than ’00s alt-country breakthrough; but for every moment of glossy grit here there’s an equally genuine heartache (see above). Rilo Kiley may be shying from the folk rocky road, but the Elected have no problem in repairing its signposts.

**INXS**

FROM PAGE 12

genres and envelope-pushing acts are becoming so common that it’s now a novelty to see a band stick to the basics.  
While the band does provide plenty of straight-forward rock tracks, that doesn’t mean the CD

lacks any touching moments. The song “Afterglow” is a beautiful contrast to the hard-rock beginning of the album. The rapid heart-beat rhythm section of “God’s Top Ten,” featuring vocalist Suzie McNeil, is one of the most touchingly beautiful closers to a CD in quite some time. Her voice is poignant and compliments JD Fortune’s growl perfectly.

The naysayers may never come to accept this album for what it is, but that doesn’t matter. The INXS boys are back with a fresh face, a new attitude and an unbeatable swagger. Their music is as strong as ever, and the spirit of rock ‘n’ roll lives on through this release. Most importantly, INXS is finally starting to mesh as a cohesive unit of musicians.

**HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP**

**Britney’s baby woes**

Oh, Britney. First you marry K-Fed (and no, “PopoZao” did not win him any new fans). Then you have the audacity to procreate with him. And now, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services plans on investigating you guys after paparazzi snapped pictures of little Sean Preston sitting on your lap in the front seat as you drove. Let’s hope sales from that shady remix album can cover the \$270 (minimum) penalty fee.



**McAdams covers up**

Canadian girl-next-door extraordinaire (and object of every “Notebook” fan’s envy) Rachel McAdams disappointed teen boys nationwide this month when she declined to pose nude in a recent Vanity Fair photo shoot. McAdams, last seen forcing your boyfriend to see “The Family Stone” with you, was set to pose naked alongside Keira Knightley and Scarlett Johansson on the cover but backed out last minute. Tom Ford replaced her instead.



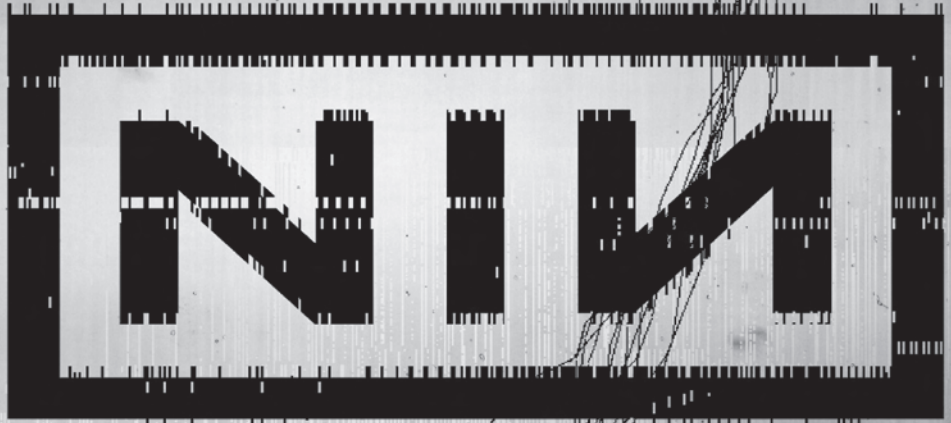
**Brokeback “Batman”?**

Rumor has it that “Brokeback Mountain” star Jake Gyllenhaal is being tipped for a role in the next “Batman” installments. Gyllenhaal would play Harvey Dent, a Gotham City lawyer, in the sequel to Christopher Nolan’s awesome “Batman Begins,” before transforming into bad boy Two-Face in a third film. Dent and Batman (Christian Bale) will reportedly battle the Joker in the second installment; “Wimbledon” hunk Paul Bettany is the current front-runner to play the crazed clown.



**Braff and Moore to wed?**

Just weeks after going public with their romance at the Golden Globes, “Garden State” star Zach Braff and singer-turned-actress Mandy Moore may be heading to the alter. The 30-year-old Braff proposed to the “Saved!”-starlet with a \$450,000, 4-carat diamond ring after courting her for the past year and a half. Moore, who recently guest-starred on Braff’s hit NBC show “Scrubs,” was previously linked to tennis pro Andy Roddick.  
— *compiled by kyle meikle*



[LIVE: WITH TEETH 2006]

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# BRIEFS

## Weekend service trips

The weekend of Feb. 24 to 25, a group will be working with Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically, better known as ALIVE, to help with their monthly

food distribution in Alexandria. Friday night will involve preparing for the distribution, which will take place Saturday. Anyone is welcome to volunteer, especially those interested in addressing hunger issues. E-mail [cltuff@wm.edu](mailto:cltuff@wm.edu) if you are interested.

An Eastern Shore clean up

and connection program will take place the weekend of March 24 to 25. Volunteers will be working with Eastern Shore Rural Health to help clean up a trailer park and work with Spanish-speaking families. After the area is clean, volunteers will spend time playing board games and reading with the children of the families. Spanish speakers are needed for this trip. E-mail [cltuff@wm.edu](mailto:cltuff@wm.edu) if you are interested.

for students who are planning to serve in a Gulf Coast community hit by hurricane Katrina. Any restrictions and or stipulations are the same as those for regular summer service grants. Please use the regular summer service grant application to apply. E-mail [mjfflet@wm.edu](mailto:mjfflet@wm.edu) for an application or with any questions.

Newport News, Virginia is eligible. Applications are available outside of the Campus Center Room 157 and are due March 17 at 5 p.m.

Last year, the Order awarded \$32,000 in scholarships to students working in food service. For more information, contact Pat Burdette at [pnburd@wm.edu](mailto:pnburd@wm.edu) or x1173. Applications are due March 17.

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Classifieds are \$.25/ wd./issue and must be pre-paid. Call 757-221-3283 or e-mail [fhads@wm.edu](mailto:fhads@wm.edu) for more info.

## Conversation on Race and Ethnicity

This week's conversation will address Ebonics, multilingualism and Standard English. Anyone is welcome to join this discussion about how language both influences and is influenced by views and experiences. The event will be Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Charles Center. Contact Jodi Fisler at [jxfisl@wm.edu](mailto:jxfisl@wm.edu) for more information.

## Museum volunteers needed

There are immediate needs for long-term volunteers at the Mariners' Museum gift shop and admissions desk. Those interested should contact Dan Maher, manager of docents and volunteers, at 591-7747, or [dmaher@mariner.org](mailto:dmaher@mariner.org) for more details.

## Service grants

The Office of Student Volunteer Services will be allocating a few summer service grants specifically

## Companion needed

A 49-year-old Williamsburg man with Downs Syndrome is looking for a student to spend time with him beginning in February. He works on campus and is involved at the AREC but is looking for further social companionship. His parents are willing to pay for activities and any gas costs. If interested, please contact Lauren Grainger at [lugrai@wm.edu](mailto:lugrai@wm.edu).

## Basketball league

Do you have the desire to make a difference in children's lives? The local youth basketball league, CAA-NBL, is looking for coaches. All that is needed is two hours a week (one hour of practice and a game Friday night or Saturday morning) and one hour monthly for coaches' meetings. Call Victoria Butler at 229-3316 to get involved.

## Bionetics grant

The Bionetics Corporation is funding summer stipends of up to \$2,000 to students to encourage them to spend a summer involved in a significant community service activity. Any project that helps a non-profit organization in

## Tutor needed

Amy Musick, a parent in the Williamsburg community, is looking for someone to tutor her fifth grade child in English and reading about two times a week. She can be reached at 357-8277. The position is paid.

## WSC Community Partnership

The WSC Community Partnership is looking for coaches for recreational teams. Coaches receive a \$300 stipend for holding one practice during each week and attending Saturday games. The program begins mid-February and runs through early May. Contact Al Albert at [afalbe@wm.edu](mailto:afalbe@wm.edu).

## Order of the White Jacket Scholarships

Scholarship applications for the Order of the White Jacket scholarships are now available at [wmalumni.com](http://wmalumni.com), the office of Financial Aid and the Alumni Center. The Order was created to honor alumni who worked their way through college in food service establishments. The organization's goals and objectives include supporting students working their way through college in food service through scholarship opportunities.

## Hulon Willis Association Scholarships

The Hulon Willis Association (HWA) is named after the first African-American student admitted to William and Mary and provides financial assistance to students at the College who exemplify the qualities of HWA, and help enrich the diversity of the College's community. Scholarship applications are now available at the offices of Financial Aid and Multicultural Affairs and at [www.wmalumni.com](http://www.wmalumni.com). Direct questions to Pat Burdette at x1173 or e-mail [pnburd@wm.edu](mailto:pnburd@wm.edu).

## Hospice volunteers needed

Heartland hospice's client base in Williamsburg is in need of volunteers. Call Carolyn at 594-8215 if you are interested.

## Campus Golf

Kappa Delta's 11th annual Campus Golf will be Feb. 18. This is the largest Greek-sponsored philanthropic event on campus, with all proceeds going to Prevent Child Abuse America. Registration will take place in the University Center Feb. 5 to 7 and 11 to 12 and in the Campus Center Feb. 8 to 10.

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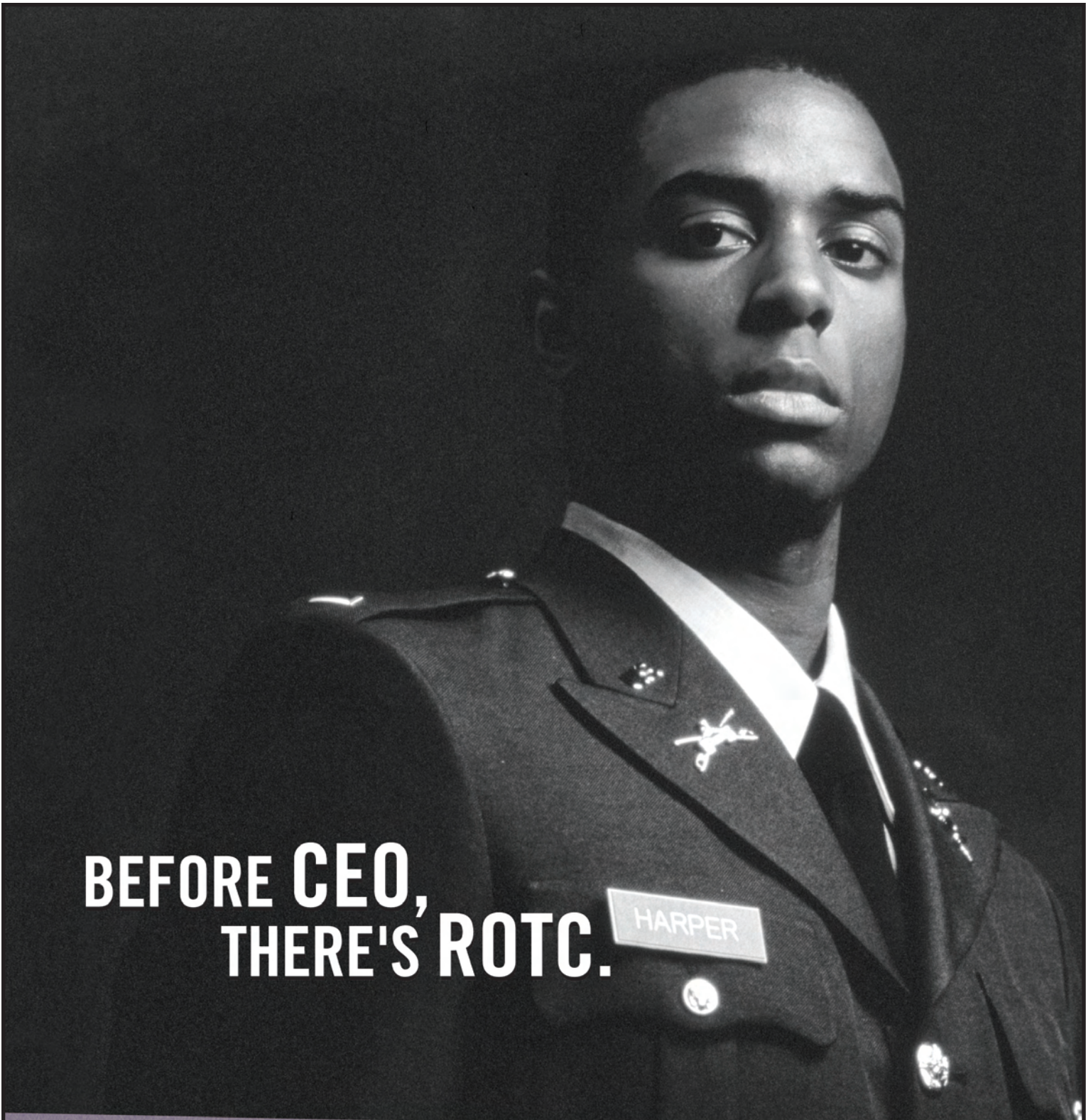
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# SPORTS



Are you \*NSYNC with your swimming skills? See RACKET, page 14.

## Women’s basketball slams Hofstra

By JOE KANE  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Women’s basketball held their own last weekend as they took on Hofstra University and George Mason University at home. Coming off a four-game stretch with a 3-1 record (including two straight home wins), the Tribe entered the two-game match-up with an overall record of 9-9 and a CAA record of 5-4.

The first game against the Hofstra University Pride Friday night was filled with energy and anticipation. Facing the CAA fourth-seeded Pride for the first and only time this season, the Tribe knew how important a win would be at this point in their schedule. Indeed, both teams walked onto the court ready to win, which resulted in a close, hard-fought contest. The score rocked back and forth throughout the game as the Tribe led at the half, 33-26, while the Pride closed to within two on five separate occasions in the second half. In the end, though, strong performances across the board for the Tribe held off the Pride’s charges, lifting them to victory by a score of 69-62.

“Since the top four teams get a bye in the CAA tournament, the win against Hofstra was very important,” Head Coach Debbie Taylor said. “It provided a confidence boost for the team.”

Sophomore guard Devin James led the team with 22 points and shot 7-14 from the field. Not far behind her were senior guard Lizzie Schiel with 17 points and sophomore forward Kyra Kaylor, who scored 12

points and picked up 13 rebounds in the process. Also adding to the winning effort was junior guard Sarah Stroh, as she shot a career-high 11 points and provided eight assists.

### Look ahead

**What:** Northeastern University  
**Date:** Today  
**Where:** Boston, Mass.  
**Time:** 7 p.m.



“What was so special about the Hofstra game was that so many different people stepped up at different, crucial points in the game. When something like that happens, it makes the win so much better because it was truly an all-around team victory,” Stroh said.

In their second game of the weekend Sunday afternoon, the Tribe squared off against the George Mason University Patriots, who had previously defeated them in mid-January. Looking to rebound from that loss and extend their current winning strategies, the team approached Sunday’s game with as much seriousness as they did in the game against Hofstra.

Like the game Friday, the score remained close from tip-off. Both teams played defensively with neither one gaining a lead of more than four points in the first 16 minutes. By the half, the Patriots led by a slim margin, 28-26, as they nailed 35.5 percent of their shots from the floor as opposed to the Tribe’s 33.3 percent. Still, neither team buckled under pressure in the second half, remaining neck and neck into the last minutes. Once again, James and Kaylor remained at the forefront of the action on the court, scoring 18 and 17 points respectively, while freshman guard Dani Kell and senior guard Lizzie Schiel each collected nine points for the

Tribe. But, as the seconds ticked down, their efforts fell short with the Patriots barely holding on to win 58-55.

“The game against Mason was a big bummer for us,” Kaylor said. “We know we could have done better, but it is a game that we will learn from and not let it happen again.”

A disappointed Stroh agreed with her teammate.

“What always seems to be the case and is most frustrating about playing GMU is that we know that we can and should beat them, but for some reason we always seem to struggle against them,”

Stroh said.

Likewise, Taylor left the game frustrated with the results but said she remained optimistic about her team’s chances down the road.

“It was a disappointing loss, but there were many positive elements in the game that have been shown throughout the season,” Taylor said. “All the players on the team are performing well. This balance is what is most important.”

The Tribe travels to Boston, Mass., today to take on Northeastern University and will then go up against Virginia Commonwealth University Sunday in Richmond.



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

*Freshman guard Dani Kell reaches for the rebound in last Friday night’s game against Hofstra. The Tribe defeated Hofstra with a 69-62 victory.*

## Swimming, diving drowns competition

By HEATHER IRELAND  
THE FLAT HAT

Ending the regular season last Sunday with a tri-meet against Davidson University and James Madison University, the men’s and women’s swim teams made an impressive showing, with the

### Look ahead

**What:** CAA Championships  
**Date:** Feb. 22-25  
**Where:** Fairfax, Va.



women beating both teams and the men defeating Davidson. Coming out of this meet, both teams are now confident of their abilities heading into the post-season, confident that they will come out on top at the CAA Championship meet.

“I think the women’s team is going into the CAA in the best possible position,” senior and team captain Erin Clark said. “We have the confidence that we need being 8-1 in the CAA.”

The women’s team earned those last two wins this past weekend, starting off with a win in the 200-yard medley relay. Freshman Whitney Pezza continued the trend by defeating all of her competitors in the 100-yard fly, winning in 58.72 seconds, while fellow freshman Marina Falcone won the 500-yard free for the team as well.

Falcone continued her efforts in the 1,000-yard free, placing third overall in the meet then leading a top-three sweep in the 200-yard free, followed by junior Marnie Rognlien and freshman Sara Fitzsimmons.

The 400-yard free relay team came in second overall with Falcone, Rognlien, Fitzsimmons and freshman Megan Sculley; Sculley came in second individually in the 100-yard free as well. Seniors Kristi Borkowski and Paige Capro scored points with an overall win in the 50-yard free and an overall second place honor in the 200-yard IM, respectively. The women’s team worked hard for this win, with their motivation coming into play upon realization that JMU started off the meet ahead.

“I think the team’s best moment this season was this weekend when we were down by 16 points to a team we considered to be an ‘easy win.’ We had to regroup and take on what I consider to be out first huge challenge as a team,” Clark said. “Our team showed that we wanted it more, and there is no better feeling to go into a conference championship with than that. It’s simple; we want it more.”

The men’s team walked away from the tri-meet with a record of 4-4 in the CAA, giving them a nice foundation to push off from going into the CAA championships. Freshman Nader Amer finished his regular season off

well with a 47.88 win in the 100-yard free. Junior Andrew Carberry did very well for himself individually, and for his team, coming in second overall in the 100-yard breast at 58.93 seconds, the sixth best time on record at the College, as well as beating Davidson easily in the 200-yard breaststroke. Freshman Jason Brisson beat out the other teams in the 200-yard fly and 200-yard IM events as fellow freshman Shawn Matthews won the 200-yard backstroke against Davidson.

The men’s 200-yard relay team followed only JMU, earning second place overall. Freshmen Jeff Collier and Shane Kelsey, however, both defeated JMU swimmers in the 1,000-yard free and 500-yard free, respectively.

“Last weekend each team definitely stepped it up and swam and dove really well. We all swam fast, dove great and had a great meet with a great ending,” Clark said. “That is a great sign of what we have to look forward to in a couple weeks.”

Both teams will compete in the CAA championship meet Feb. 22 to 25 in Fairfax, Va.

“This past year our teams have done everything we can to be the best we can be,” Clark said. “The meet last weekend definitely showed that we can overcome challenges and are ready to take on the rest of the conference at our championship.”

*Background photo by Nicole Scheer.*

## Men’s hoops dominates with 90-73 victory against GMU

By JEFF DOOLEY  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The men’s basketball team cruised past Georgia State University this past Saturday night with a 90-73 victory.

Freshman guard Calvin Baker, one of four Tribe players scoring in the double figures, paced the offense with 18 points. The Tribe’s shooting performance was their best of the season thus far, shooting 63 percent from the floor overall, 73.9 percent in the second half, and 79.3 percent from the line for the game.

Georgia State started out hot, making their first six shot attempts. The Tribe fought back, however, taking a 26-25 lead off of a basket by freshman forward Chris Darnell. Darnell came off the bench to score six points for the Tribe in the first half, all in succession. Other bench

contributors included senior guard Taylor Mokris, who finished with 11 points, and freshman forward Alex Smith, who pitched in seven points and grabbed some critical rebounds in the second half.

Head Coach Tony Shaver applauded the efforts of his entire team following the game, in particular Darnell and Mokris.

“This was a great team effort,” he said. “I will say that I thought Chris Darnell was really special tonight. He and Taylor Mokris in that latter part of the first half really got our ship going in the right direction.”

The Tribe went to work quickly in the second half at extending their 36-30 halftime advantage, as Baker quickly put up four points to extend the lead to 10.

Georgia State fought back, due mainly to the efforts of forward Lance Perique, who at one point scored eight points in a row and dazzled the crowd with several thunderous dunks.

The Tribe kept working on extending their lead, however, thanks to big shots by sophomore guard Nathan Mann, freshman center Peter Stein and Mokris.

Back-to-back buckets by sophomore forward Laimis Kisielius opened up a 17-point advantage, 70-53, with just over six minutes left on the clock.

Perique of Georgia State did his best to keep his team in the game, with a pair of highlight-reel quality dunks, but the Tribe offense continued to prove to be too strong. Junior forward Corey Cofield paired with Baker to score 13 points down the stretch. The two have formed an inside-outside scoring combination that has worked well for the Tribe in the past several games.

Back-to-back free throws from reserve senior center and fan-favorite Nate Loehrke put the cap on an impressive 90-73 victory for the Tribe.

Cofield finished with 15 points, and Kisielius with 14, to join Baker and Mokris in double figures. Mokris led the team with five rebounds, and Baker led the team with six assists.

“I’m very happy for these guys and very proud of these guys. We’re a much better basketball team than we were a month ago,” Shaver said of his team, following the game.

Monday, the Colonial Athletic Association named Baker the CAA men’s basketball player of the week for his efforts in the previous Thursday’s loss against Northeastern University and Saturday’s win over Georgia State. Baker averaged 14 points, five-and-a-half assists, two rebounds and two steals per game during the two-game span. It is the second week in a row and a conference-high fifth time this year that Baker has won the award.

The Tribe returns to action tomorrow night as they travel to James Madison University to take on the conference and in-state rival Dukes. Tip off is 7 p.m.

### FROM THE SIDELINES



CARL SIEGMUND

U.S. Olympic skier Bode Miller loves to speak his mind. Just give him a mic and an audience. Quite possibly the polar opposite of a modest, clean-cut Olympic hero, Miller has historically pounced at the opportunity to start controversy by opening his trap. But chances are that at least a few in the U.S. Skiing Association are secretly thanking him, because he has brought so much attention and publicity to a sport that only gets a slice of the spotlight every four years.

Miller, who took two silvers for the only U.S. Alpine medals at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic games, is everybody’s cover boy the week leading up to the opening of the 2006 Turin, Italy games. Predicted to medal in several different events, including the downhill and slalom, Miller is carrying a lot of weight on his shoulders to perform well.

The 28-year-old from Franconia, N.H., has become the face of U.S. skiing and the entire U.S. team by mouthing off about everything

ranging from anti-doping regulations, accusing Lance Armstrong of using steroids, refusing to live in the Olympic village to skiing drunk. He has become such a fixture in the spotlight that, at a recent press conference that included five other U.S. skiers, all but one question was directed at Miller.

Attention is something that Miller has always been able to attract, but pressure might not be something he will always be able to handle. Last season, Miller won World Cup races in the slalom, giant slalom, super giant slalom and downhill, but this year he has only one World Cup victory. The Olympics will be another test for Miller, who will have to compete with Austrian phenomenon Hermann Maier, who is finally back after injury.

Among the many Miller-isms in recent weeks is his refusal to live in the Olympic village. Apparently, he believes athletes are punished for speaking their minds, and he

does not think it is a healthy living environment. So Miller will set up camp in his own one-man trailer park. Italian officials confirm that this is the first ever mobile home to grace their country.

During an interview in Rolling Stone Magazine, Miller accused baseball player Barry Bonds of cheating and suggested Armstrong, the seven-time Tour de France champion, takes a don’t-ask-don’t-tell approach to drugs.

He provided more juicy sound bites when he told CBS’s “60 Minutes” that, “if you’ve ever tried to ski when you’re wasted, it’s not easy.” He later apologized for his remark, but he did not deny that he had skied while intoxicated. Who knows what he will say next. The Miller-isms keep on rolling, and U.S. skiing is happy with his megalomania, even if they won’t admit it publicly.

Skiing is a lot like auto racing. No one pays attention unless there is a big race, a horren-

dous crash or a loud, megalomaniacal spokesman. In 1998 at the Nagano, Japan games, it was Austrian Hermann Maier’s 70 mph wipe-out that captivated the world. Maier skidded out of control, flipped in the air and crashed through two safety nets before landing on his head. He then crashed into a snow bank after skidding another 50 yards. He came back a couple days later and won two Gold medals.

This year, a megalomaniacal spokesperson might do the trick and help increase TV ratings during Alpine events. Miller might be the impetus for getting people to realize that Alpine skiing really is an awesome sport. But after it’s all over, the world will see that the best U.S. skier is not Miller, but instead his teammate Daron Rahlves, and that the best skier in the world is Maier, a.k.a. the “Herminator.”

*Carl Siegmund is the sports columnist for The Flat Hat. He still can’t figure out whether Bode Miller is a hero or a villain.*



# Synchronized swimming

BY MATTHEW A. NOLAN  
THE FLAT HAT

What started as a kinesiology class in 1952 is now among the nation’s most successful and acclaimed synchronized swimming teams. The Mermettes are ranked 10th in the nation and make their home in the Adair Gymnasium pool, where they recently trounced University of Mary Washington and rival University of Richmond in the W&M Invitational, taking first place in all but one event. The next day, the Mermettes showed that they could take on Pennsylvania State University, too.

Despite their success on the national level, the Mermettes are the College’s official “unofficial” team. Synchronized swimming is a club sport at the College, as the Mermettes had their varsity application denied a few years ago. The team is still working toward varsity status, and being a club doesn’t stop them from beating other nationally-recognized varsity programs. The Mermettes compete in the Eastern College Athletic Conference, which hosts events for the women’s and men’s gymnastics and swimming teams. In fact, the Mermettes will be hosting the U.S. Synchronized Swimming (the national governing body of the sport) national qualifiers later this month.

“[Synchronized swimming] is a combination of athleticism and performance. And then you have to make it look easy,” senior captain Ellie Browne said. The Mermettes compete in solo, duet, triple and team categories and are scored on everything from technical merit to artistic expression on a scale of zero to 10. The women keep their scores in the eights and high sevens, scores of very high caliber.

The solo competition, which is described as the “longest three minutes of your life,” is where Tribe swimmer Kim Marsh, ’05 placed

seventh nationally last year.

Barbara McNamee, former instructor in the kinesiology department, has coached the team for 10 years. According to McNamee, who came to the team after working with the Atlanta summer Olympics, women from all over the nation apply for a spot on the team, the average applicant already having a decade of synchronized swimming under her suit. The proof is in the pudding: every woman on the gold team is from outside Virginia, including sophomore Mary Ramsey, who transferred out of the University of California, Santa Barbara to be in the program. The other women come from Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Maryland and Washington and all swam competitively in private synchro clubs. Once accepted to the program, the athletes spend at least 10 hours in the pool per week, plus dry land practices.

“Since we compete against varsity [teams], we must follow all NCAA regulations,” junior club president Merry Von Roedern said. Though the team has a \$3,000 recreational sports budget, they spend nearly four times that in travel expenses because they compete at the national level.

If they had varsity status, their travel expenses would be paid for by the school. Of course, they’d have to pull their weight financially, too; varsity teams are required to perform fundraising activities. Considering how much they spend now and how much they would have to raise, the money itself would be a wash.

But travel isn’t the only perk varsity programs have. Varsity status would let the athletes use athletic facilities, pay their coach (a decade-long volunteer) and attract more talent. Being a varsity sport also includes the greater possibility of getting corporate sponsorship.

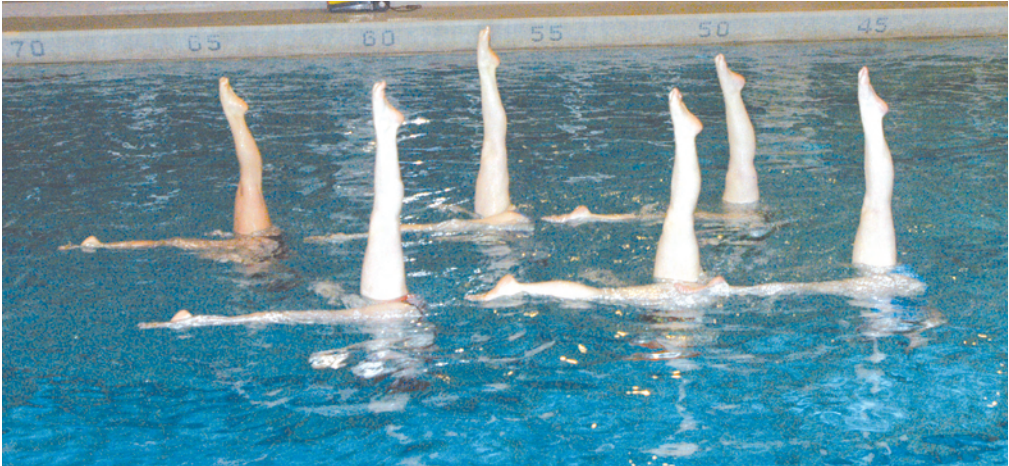


NICOLE SCHEER • THE FLAT HAT  
*The synchronized swimming club draws students from all over the country and competes against varsity teams. The club is ranked 10th in the nation and will be hosting the U.S. Synchronized Swimming national qualifiers later this month.*

“There’s a formal petition process that any club goes through [in order] to be in inter-collegiate athletics,” Athletics Director Terry Driscoll said. The application is evaluated by a committee under specific criteria, including budgets, coaching and the potential to be successful at a competitive level. The Mermettes have all of these and are currently considering their options.

Finally, no report on synchronized swimming is complete without answers to the two most commonly asked questions of the sport: no, the athletes are not allowed to touch the pool bottom, and yes, they can hear the music.

The Mermettes face off against national champion The Ohio State University Feb. 12 and will be hosting the South Regional Championships from Feb. 24 to 26. Both events will be in the Adair pool.



NICOLE SCHEER • THE FLAT HAT

## Steelers smash Seahawks in Super Bowl XL

BY ANDREW PIKE  
THE FLAT HAT

Super Bowl XL lived up to the hype of its extra large name. Coverage of the game started in earnest two weeks earlier when the Seattle Seahawks topped the Carolina Panthers 34-14 in the NFC title game.

For two weeks we heard about aging Pittsburgh Steeler and future Hall-of-Famer Jerome Bettis and his return to his hometown of Detroit, Mich. We heard about the rich tradition of the Steelers organization and its founding family, the Rooney’s. We were also informed that a Steelers’ victory would give them a record-tying fifth Super Bowl title, while the Seahawks had never before hoisted the Lombardi Trophy. The coverage con-

tinued as ESPN’s Sunday NFL Countdown began seven-and-a-half hours prior to kickoff and ABC offered a four-hour-long pregame show.

ABC and the NFL brought out the stars for the game, too. Motown legend Aretha Franklin and New Orleans jazz artist Aaron Neville performed the national anthem. Former Super Bowl MVPs from the first recipient, Bart Starr, to the last, Deion Branch, were honored before the game as well. Then, the Rolling Stones rocked during a three-song, 12-minute set for the halftime show.

Add \$2.5 million, 30-second commercials to all the other hoopla and hype, and the game almost becomes an afterthought. As always, however, the game proved to be more exciting than the commercials, halftime entertainment and pregame coverage.

Seattle dominated the game for most of

the first half before falling behind 3-7 after a controversial touchdown by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. The second half featured similar excitement as Steelers runningback Willie Parker broke free for a 75-yard touchdown run, the longest such run in Super Bowl history. The Seahawks countered with fireworks of their own when defensiveback Kelly Herndon intercepted a Roethlisberger pass and took off for a Super Bowl record 76-yard return to set up Seattle’s last touchdown. However, Pittsburgh answered by using one of its gimmick plays; Roethlisberger pitched the ball to Parker, who in turn handed it to former Indiana University quarterback Antwaan Randle El, who proceeded to launch a 43-yard touchdown pass to Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward.

From then on, Seattle stumbled and watched the time run out on their season.

DID YOU KNOW ... ?  
Synchronized swimmers perform lifts with their body strength alone. They are not allowed to touch the bottom of the pool.

## Sports Calendar

Feb 11. to Feb. 17

— compiled by christopher adams

### Saturday

♦ The Super Bowl is finished, so that means baseball season is upon us. Men’s baseball begins their season with a home game against Georgetown University. They play at Plumeri Park at noon.

### Sunday

♦ Men’s tennis takes on James Madison University at 5 p.m. in the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center (it’s next door to the law school, in case you were wondering). A bit earlier in the day, men’s baseball continues their series against Georgetown. They begin play at Plumeri Park at 1 p.m.

### Monday

♦ The Badminton club meets tonight at 9 p.m. in Adair Gymnasium.

### Tuesday

♦ For all you Valentine-less persons, the Sports Calendar has it on good authority that saying, “Bah-humbug” and scowling burns five calories every minute.

### Wednesday

♦ If you’re not still flying from a Sweet Tarts candy sugar-high, you can make your way to Kaplan Arena to watch the ever-improving men’s basketball team challenge the University of Delaware. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

### Thursday

♦ If, perhaps, you were unable to find the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center, you can try again at 5 p.m. Women’s tennis faces off against Duke University.

### Friday

♦ Men’s baseball starts another weekend series, this time against Rutgers University. As usual, they play at Plumeri Park at 3 p.m.

## Box Scores

<b>Men’s Gymnastics</b>			
Shenandoah Open	1st of 4 (201.35)		Feb. 4
<b>Men’s Tennis</b>			
Wake Forest University	L, 1-6		Feb. 4
Longwood University	W, 7-0		Feb. 4
<b>Women’s Gymnastics</b>			
James Madison University	W, 184.875-183.900		Feb. 3
<b>Women’s Tennis</b>			
College of Charleston	W, 7-0		Feb. 5
James Madison University	W, 7-0		Feb. 5
<b>Women’s Track and Field</b>			
Vince Brown Invitational			Feb. 3-4
60-m			
Erica Johnson	7.83	1st	
4x400-m relay	4:06.74	1st	
Michelle Wolf, Kathleen Woody, Hillary Schwab, Erica Johnson			
3,000-m			
Melle Patrick	10:33.81	2nd	
Carolina Invitational			Feb. 4
3,000-m			
Lynn Morelli	10:09.03	1st	
Julia Cathcart	10:11.34	2nd	
<b>Men’s Track and Field</b>			
Vince Brown Invitational			Feb. 3-4
60-m			
Justin Benabdallah	7.14	2nd	
Shot put			
Aaron Mitchell	50 ft. 10.75 in.	1st	
3,000-m			
Harry Miller	8:46.77	1st	
High jump			
Cam Shriver	6 ft. 2 in.	3rd	
Carolina Invitational			Feb. 4
1 Mile			
Matt Wolak	4:14.63	1st	
Matt Warco	4:18.63	3rd	
800-m			
Ryan Jones	1:55.16	2nd	
3,000-m			
Karl Lang	8:39.84	3rd	

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